

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan President Najibullah's claim that Pakistani troops are preparing to invade and annex his country is "preposterous," Pakistan said Sunday.

Pakistani officials described Najibullah's statement Saturday night as part of a propaganda campaign by Afghanistan's Communist government.

Radio Kabul, monitored in Islamabad, has claimed over the past several weeks that Afghan government troops have captured or killed dozens of alleged U.S. and Pakistani "military advisers" inside Afghanistan.

Washington and Islamabad have called those claims fabrications.

The Afghan rebels, called Mujahedeen, and Western analysts predict the communists will fall within weeks or months after the Soviets complete their withdrawal. Najibullah has repeatedly rejected that claim and contends his forces are strong enough to resist the rebels.

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Afghan troops patrol a Kabul street as last columns of Soviet soldiers prepare to leave Afghanistan. On left is a poster of cosmonaut Abdul Ahad Mohammad who joined a Soviet space mission last August.

lead to a post-war Islamic government in Afghanistan—if they are victorious in their civil war.

The Pakistan-based rebels, who are Sunni Muslims, are at odds with Mujahadeen based in Iran, who are mainly Shi'ite Muslims, over the composition of a council and provisional cabinet.

The Sunni factions also are split between the powerful Islamic fundamentalist parties and weaker moderate groups.

The council held an inaugural meeting Friday, without most of the Shi'ite rebel leaders who boycotted the session, then adjourned to try to work out a compromise in the dispute. A rebel spokesman said Saturday that the council would be reconvened in "two or three days" but refused to be more specific.

The Iran-based rebels contend they are not being given enough

representatives on the council or enough positions in the proposed cabinet.

U.S. to continue aid

The United States will continue giving military aid to the rebels as long as the Soviet Union supports the Kabul government, a White House spokesman said Saturday.

President Bush considered the issue at a National Security Council meeting Friday and reaffirmed the policy of "positive symmetry," Marlin Fitzwater said.

"The United States will continue to support the rebels as long as the Soviet Union supports the Kabul government," he told reporters at Bush's holiday home in Maine. Fitzwater did not elaborate.

The New York Times quoted senior administration officials Saturday as saying the aid was needed because the Soviets had left behind in Afghanistan large amounts of military hardware.

The United States said last spring when the Soviet troop withdrawal accord was signed in Geneva that Washington would continue to supply the rebels as long as Moscow supplies the Kabul government.

"We said all along that we would support the Mujahedeen as long as they (the Soviets) are

supporting the Kabul regime," an administration official told Reuters.

Asked if the U.S. policy was to push for removal of the Najibullah regime even after the Soviet troop withdrawal is complete, the official said: "We want a government the Afghan people support. He's never been included in that definition."

Relief aid delivered

U.N. airlifts of emergency supplies for besieged Kahul are being delayed by people getting cold feet, a U.N. official said Sunday.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who is directing the relief operation, told a news conference that the pilot of an Ethiopian airliner which flew the first relief supplies into Kabul Friday had been ordered by Addis Ababa to stop further flights.

The prince declined to say whether the difficulties were political but said "some people may be getting cold feet."

He added: "We are looking for other carriers and don't know if or when the next flight to Kahul will take place."

The U.N. airlift to Kahul has been dogged by problems. Many airlines refused to fly the first shipment of 32 tonnes and an Egyptian plane turned down the job at the last moment after first accepting it.

Maghreb leaders to debate unity options

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

TUNIS — Five Maghreb heads of state meet in Marrakesh this week to debate a planned alliance which Libya has proposed extending almost to the Equator.

Diplomats said the other four countries involved — Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania — are unlikely to make the Lihyan proposal seriously after eight months of work on a more modest plan. Tunisia, with a mandate from its neighbours, drafted a treaty creating common institutions for an Arab Maghreb union intended to stimulate economic development and face the challenge of the single European market envisaged for 1992.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, who has fathered a long series of stillborn unity plans, Friday revived a scheme to include Mali, Niger, Chad and Sudan in an alliance stretching almost the width of Africa and from the Mediterranean deep into the Tropics. The diplomats said the timing of the Libyan leader's proposal must raise doubts about his commitment to go alone with his Arab neighbours.

Qadhafi and Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali have been in contact daily for most of the last week on preparations for the three-day summit which starts Wednesday.

The two different concepts of the union illustrate yet again the problem of moulding the politically and economically diverse region into a cohesive whole.

Libya and Algeria are oil-rich states with state-dominated economies and limited political freedoms, while Tunisia and Morocco are liberal Western-looking states dependent on their foreign exchange on tourism, phosphates and light industry.

Until recently Algeria and Morocco had been at odds since independence, first over their border, later over the Western Sahara where Algeria supported the Polisario Front against the Moroccan army. Maghrebi union would have been impossible without last year's rapprochement between Algeria and Morocco, which went a step further this week with President Chadli Benjedid's visit to Morocco — the first by an Algerian president in 17 years.

Polisario leaders have held direct talks with King Hassan II of Morocco and are telling reporters that the front expects to attend the Marrakesh summit "in some way or another." At the last ministerial meeting in Tunis last month, it was agreed that Morocco and Algeria will meet with Libya and Tunisia over how far they should go towards creating permanent institutions.

Tunisia, with support from Libya, wanted the proposed union to have a permanent secretariat, while a Moroccan document proposed only a council of heads of state and a council of ministers, meeting regularly with rotating chairmanships.

The Moroccan proposals were used as the basis of the treaty drafted by Tunisia. It is not yet clear to what extent Tunisia has inserted its own ideas.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Rally in Rome in support of Palestine

ROME (AP) — About 30,000 Italian and Arab demonstrators, waving banners and chanting slogans, marched in Rome Saturday to express support for a Palestinian state, Italian news agencies said. The agencies said the march, organised by the Italian League for People's Rights and the Association for Peace, was led by students waving the Palestinian flag and holding portraits of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat. The demonstrators, who arrived from all over Italy, gathered outside the Basilica of St. John the Lateran to hear a speech by Nemer Hammad, the PLO representative in Italy. "We want Palestine to return to being the land of peace," Hammad told the demonstrators. "Thanks to Italy for the support that it has given us Palestinians, the protagonists of the intifada, (which is) a non-violent struggle." In the square outside the church, young people wearing keffiyas mingled with housewives, politicians and the ambassadors from Iraq, Kuwait, Libya and Sudan. Near the end of the peaceful demonstration a group of about a hundred protesters burned an Israeli flag and called for armed struggle in the occupied territories.

Church aide rejects report Waite died

LONDON (R) — An Anglican official has rejected as untrue a British newspaper report that kidnapped Church of England envoy Terry Waite was feared dead. John Lytke, adviser to Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, was announcing Saturday on a News of the World report that Waite's captors killed him after they heard Waite disappeared in Lebanon two years ago on a mission to seek the release of hostages. "As far as I'm concerned, Mr. Waite is still alive," Lytke told reporters. He said he had just approached the archbishop's office last October saying mercenary John Banks was planning to try to rescue Waite. "We were told it was essentially to rescue one or more Americans but that Mr. Waite would be rescued at the same time," Lytke added. "I said very firmly it was an insane thing to do, it would be extremely dangerous and to lay off. I don't believe any attempt was ever made," he said. The mass-circulation News of the World, in its Sunday edition, said an international hunt was on for Banks after he vanished with £1 million (\$1-75 million) he had negotiated from U.S. hackers to free the hostages. Banks is thought to have acted as a mercenary in Africa and elsewhere. A Home Office spokesman said he knew nothing about Banks or the allegations.

Kenyan newspaper apologises to Iran

NAIROBI (R) — A Kenyan newspaper apologised Sunday for mistakenly using the old flag of the Shah in an advertising feature marking the 10th anniversary of the Iranian revolution. The Standard, Kenya's oldest newspaper, printed a picture of the old flag in its Saturday edition. On Sunday, under a picture of the new Iranian flag, the paper said: "We apologise to the Iranian embassy in Nairobi for the embarrassment caused by this error."

Ultra-orthodox group suspected of bomb

TEL AVIV (R) — Police dismantled a bomb next to a store that sold secular newspapers Saturday after a tip-off that one had been planted by an ultra-orthodox extremist group, Israeli radio said. A caller said the underground group, Keshet, was responsible. Police this week arrested 10 members of the group believed to be responsible for bombing kiosks of vendors of secular newspapers in Bnei Brak, a Tel Aviv suburb. Residents of Bnei Brak, a Boker communist farm, found swastikas daubed on the grave of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion this week, signed Keshet.

Bomb blast at anti-Khomeini meeting site

COLOGNE, West Germany (R) — A bomb exploded on Saturday outside a West German university building where members of an Iranian opposition group were meeting, a police spokesman said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast which injured two people. The police official said it was not clear whether the bombing was connected to the gathering of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, which opposes the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Israel averts general strike

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli employers, labour leaders and treasury officials signed a cost-of-living agreement Saturday night narrowly averting a general strike due to begin at midnight, labour officials said. Employers last week agreed to give workers a six per cent rise to cushion a 12 per cent increase in prices predicted for the period between October 1988 and March 1989 but remained in dispute over timing, with workers demanding the full amount by September this year while employers wanted to stagger payments. Into 1990. Minutes before the midnight deadline negotiators agreed that workers would receive a three per cent rise with their February salaries and the balance in three equal instalments paid in August and December 1989 and April 1990, the officials said. Treasury officials told Reuters the agreement would have to be ratified by the cabinet before taking effect but they saw no obstacles to it winning government approval.

Indonesians seize gold from smugglers

MUSCOSIA (AP) — Iranian coast guards have seized a total of 108 kilograms of gold bars, hidden in a launch in the international waters of the Gulf of Oman, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday. It said the gold bars, worth four million riyals (\$57 million), were seized and confiscated Friday.

"Five international smugglers were arrested," IRNA reported without disclosing the identities or the nationalities of the alleged smugglers. It said each gold bar weighed three kilogrammes. The Gulf is notorious for gold smuggling, especially between India and Dubai.

Saturday as saying the aid was needed because the Soviets had left behind in Afghanistan large amounts of military hardware.

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DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./max. temp.

Amman 29 / 43
 Aqaba 5 / 15
 Deserts -1 / 5
 Jordan Valley 6 / 10

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 2.5, Aqaba 15. Humidity readings: Amman 97 per cent, Aqaba 52 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Majed Abu Sacineh 881635
 Dr. Abdel Majid Al Sha'er 791405
 Dr. Mahmoud Alkan 894866
 Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz 783344
 Firas pharmacy 661912
 Firdous pharmacy 778336
 Al Asema pharmacy 637055
 Naroukh pharmacy 623672
 Al Salam pharmacy 626730
 Yacoub pharmacy 644945
 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Omasi (—)
 Al Sharaf pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Salah Al Safarini (—)
 Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
 Civil Defence Emergency 199
 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
 Fire Brigade 62209093
 Blood Bank 775121
 Highway Police 843402
 Traffic Police 65639091
 Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
 Hotel Complaints 605800
 Price Complaints 661176
 Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
 Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
 Overseas Calls 17
 Central Amman Telephone

Reprints:

Abdali Telephone Reprints 623101
 Jordan Television 773111
 Radio Jordan 774111
 Water Authority 680100
 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
 Electric Power Company 636381
 RJ Flight Information 18-53200
 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 18-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642916
 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
 Malhas, J. Amman 636140
 Plasticists, Shmeisani 661174
 Shmeisani Hospital 661131
 University Hospital 845845
 Al-Muasher Hospital 667279
 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
 Italian, Al-Muasher 777101/3
 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 751126
 Army, Marka 891611/15
 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
 Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (019)983323
 Zarqa National Hospital (019)91071
 Ibn Sina Hospital (019)96732

IRBID:

Princess Bayma Hospital (023)275555
 Grace Catholic Hospital (023)272375
 Ibn Al Nafces Hospital (023)247100
AQABA:
 Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lib. per kg.

Apple 300 / 450
 Banana 350 / 300
 Banana (Mukammarr) 300 / 250
 Beans 600 / 550
 Broad beans 800 / 700
 Cabbage 170 / 140
 Cauliflower 240 / 200
 Cauliflower 200 / 170
 Cucumbers 550 / 450
 Dates 600 / 500
 Eggplant 240 / 180
 Garlic 250 / 200
 Capsifruit 210 / 170
 Lemon 250 / 200
 Lettuce (per one) 140 / 100
 Marrow (large) 350 / 300

Marrow (small)	500 / 300
Orange (Shamouti)	580 / 400
Orange (head)	350 / 200
Onion (dry)	250 / 180
Onion (green)	260 / 210
Pepper (hot)	640 / 580
Pepper (sweet)	500 / 400
Poroto	250 / 200
Spinach	170 / 120
Mandarin	360 / 300
Tomatoes	210 / 140

FOR THE TRAVELLER

**QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 533265, where it can always be verified.

ARRIVALS

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)**

09:10	Agaba (RJ)
09:10	Damascus (RJ)
09:30	Cairo (RJ)
09:30	Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:50	Sana'a (RJ)
10:15	Lamaca (RJ)
10:45	Cairo (RJ)
08:10	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:30	Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30	Sana'a (LH)
09:35	Cairo, Agaba (MS)
12:15	Beghaziya (TA)
12:30	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
20:50	Paris (AF)

DEPARTURES

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)**

11:00	Brussels, Montreal, New York (RJ)
11:45	Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
12:15	Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30	Kuwait, Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
19:40	Karachi, Khashab (RJ)
19:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:10	Beghaziya (RJ)
20:15	Jeddah (RJ)
20:20	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Dubai, Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30	Cairo, London (BA)
08:15	Cairo, London (BA)
10:10	Bahrain (MS)
10:20	Frankfurt (LH)
13:30	Cairo (MS)
13:30	Beghaziya (TA)
15:30	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Sana'a (GF)
21:50	London (BA)

King condoles UAE president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable of condolences to the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan on the death of his brother Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan. In the cable the King paid tribute to the existing ties between Jordan and the UAE and joint cooperation in serving the Arab Nation.

Rifai gets cables of support for closing down money exchange firms

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has received cables of support for the government's decision last week to close down money exchange firms in the country.

Cables came from representatives of various public and private organisations and economic and trade institutions in the country who expressed their deep satisfaction with the government's action, which they described as "a wise step designed to maintain economic stability in the Kingdom and ending profiteering and tampering with the national economy."

The cables said that the govern-

ment's step was bound to provide sufficient amounts of foreign currency for the public needs.

Also Sunday Prime Minister Zaid Rifai visited Minister of Agriculture Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber at the hospital, where he is undergoing treatment from a stroke he had suffered while taking part in the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meetings in Cairo.

Mr. Rifai sent a cable to Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat Sunday expressing his condolences on the death of Jamal Arafat, the Palestinian leader's brother, who died Friday morning in Saudi Arabia.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SEMINAR ON HUMANITARIAN LAW: A symposium on international humanitarian law now underway in Amman Sunday reviewed a number of working papers dealing with civil rights of people under military occupation in the light of the fourth Geneva Convention and deportation of Arab citizens from the occupied Arab territories. The papers also tackled the collective punishments imposed on Palestinians by the Israeli authorities. (Petra)

ISLAMIC CITIES ORGANISATION: Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh met Sunday with Abdul Qader Hamzeh Koushah, secretary general of the Islamic Cities Organisation and discussed Amman municipality's preparations for hosting the organisation's fifth meeting. Municipality officials said that the meeting is scheduled for March 18.

6 FOODSHOPS CLOSED: The Public Safety Committee in the northern Jordan Valley Sunday decided to close down six foodshops for violating the health safety regulations. The committee also destroyed an unspecified amount of foodstuff found to be unfit for human consumption. (Petra)

DRUG TRAFFICKER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Mohammad Khalaf to 15 years in prison and the payment of JD 20,000 for possessing drugs. The court fined Nimer Hussein Kamalat JD 60 for violating Ministry of Supply regulations. The military governor has endorsed both sentences. (Petra)

Cabinet endorses SSC loan to Housing Corporation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has endorsed an agreement under which the Social Security Corporation (SSC) will lend the Housing Corporation JD 5 million to finance Al Batawi housing project in Zarqa. The project is to benefit limited income families covered by the SSC law.

The Cabinet also endorsed memoranda exchanged by Jordan and West Germany on cooperation in providing training to Jordanian midwives and nurses employed in hospitals and medical centres operating in the southern regions of the Kingdom.

The project, which is being sponsored by the Health Ministry and the National Medical Institution, aims to raise the standard and improve the performance of the staff employed in these centres.

Canadian development agency team ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A team representing the Canadian International Development Agency has wound up a visit to Jordan during which its members held talks with officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) dealing with bilateral cooperation in energy related affairs.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of building a laboratory in Jordan for testing electrical equipment and cleaning insulating material along the cables and power transmission lines.

In the meantime it was announced that JEA was conducting a feasibility study on setting up an experimental station to generate electricity from wind power.

A JEA spokesman said that the projected station would be set up in the north of the country and would be expected to produce up to 5,250 kilowatt hours, and that components for the wind turbines would be manufactured in the Kingdom.

The JEA in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) are conducting other tests on generating power from wind and solar energy.

An RSS sponsored project for generating electricity from the solar and wind power was last year started at Jurf Al Darwish, a remote village that cannot be supplied by normal power lines from the main generation centres.



Prince Mohammad visits army HQ

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein Sunday visited the army headquarters and met with army Chief of Staff Fahd Abu Taleh and his assistants. Later Prince Mohammad called at the headquarters of the Royal Jordanian Air Force and met with the air force commander (Petra photo)



Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Sunday opens a training course for Jordan Radio and Television Corporation employees in Amman (Petra photo)

Khasawneh calls for objectivity, truth in conveying information

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh Sunday opened a training course for Jordan Radio and Television Corporation officials at the corporation's training centre in Amman with a speech in which he paid tribute to Radio Jordan and Jordan Television for their well-prepared programmes that provide services to the public.

Khasawneh said that the information message should contain the truth and must be presented with objectivity and responsibility to the public. The minister urged the trainees to promote the cause of self-reliance among the members of the public, especially now since the country is seeking to encourage investment and exploiting the people's creative and inventive potential to serve the nation.

The corporation Director General Munir Al Durra and other officials were present at the opening ceremony.

The corporation's centre has organised several training courses for officials over the past six months dealing with the preparation of programmes, broadcasting techniques and skills, and other related topics.

Meeting begins discussion on regional food safety strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A regional symposium opened here Sunday to discuss food safety, measures pertaining to this issue and regulations to ensure sound ways of handling and marketing foodstuffs in the Mediterranean region.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, who opened the four-day meeting called participating countries to work hand-in-hand with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in preparing a regional food safety strategy, ensure food with good quality and nutritional value for the members of the public.

"Providing safe food is part of the primary health care campaign being launched by Jordan since 1978 in cooperation with WHO," the minister said.

"Jordan gives due attention to food safety matters and the Health Ministry laboratories constantly test samples of food marketed in the country," the minister noted.

He said the ministry is being helped in this endeavour by the Customs Department, the Amman Municipality, the Royal Scientific Society, the University of Jordan and the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The symposium entitled "consultation meeting for regional strategy on food safety" was organised by the WHO's Amman-based Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) in cooperation with the Health Ministry. Delegates from seven countries

taking part in the meeting, heard a message from Dr. Hassan Al Jazairi, WHO's Eastern Mediterranean regional director, who underlined the fact that the attainment of complete food safety can only result from coordination of efforts on the part of government agencies.

Jazairi's message, which was read out on his behalf, reviewed the different activities carried out by WHO, especially in the field of combating health hazards resulting from food contamination by chemical substances.

The delegates, who will be oriented on latest methods to ensure food safety, come from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia, North and South Yemen, Pakistan and Jordan.

Swedes praise quality of treated Aqaba water

Experts identify areas of environmental pollution

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two Swedish experts in environment protection have raised questions on air and water pollution in Jordan as part of a long-term problem identification project to improve the environmental conditions in the Kingdom.

Dr. Ulf von Bromssen, an expert on soil and groundwater pollution, and Ulrika Rasmussen, an industrial pollution control expert, discussed the findings of their two-week trip to Jordan during a press conference Sunday.

For the past two weeks, the two-member delegation visited a number of industries, water treatment plants, basins and dams, met with various officials at the Jordan Valley Authority, responsible ministries, the Royal Scientific Society and the University of Jordan. They also toured several industrial plants in Aqaba.

According to Bromssen and Rasmussen, although Jordan has relatively low air pollution, many areas in the Kingdom have contaminated water.

Zarka was particularly noted by both experts as being "heavily polluted." They studied the pollutants from industries and municipal waste water treatment along the Zarka River.

"The Zarka water was among the worst (we have) seen with (its) black stinking water," said Bromssen.

Rasmussen added that the several Zarka inhabitants they spoke to, complained of the air

and water pollution, pointing to the "odour and colour of the water."

The pollutants in Zarka can have negative effects on health including lung diseases, she said, suggesting "a simple short term solution would be to raise the stacks of the industries, but this will in the long term cause problems elsewhere."

Bromssen noted that he was impressed by the quality of treated water in Aqaba, saying, "I did not see such clear water, but in the Arctic."

However, Aqaba has a problem with phosphates and sulphur dioxide from industrial plants in the area. These materials, according to Rasmussen "are hazardous to vegetation."

Other than identifying these problems, both experts put forward several questions which will have to be answered by Jordanian officials when they deal with air and water pollution control.

Bromssen said that since water in Jordan is a "limiting factor", he believes that responsible officials should ask "what price will be put on water and what cost can we allow ourselves to treat water?"

He added that officials may

want to reduce water used for industries in order to increase water for the inhabitants of Amman. According to Rasmussen, industries in Jordan use more water than "industries in our country."

"Jordan will have to decide what is best, and we will help find a solution for what is appropriate for Jordan," she said.

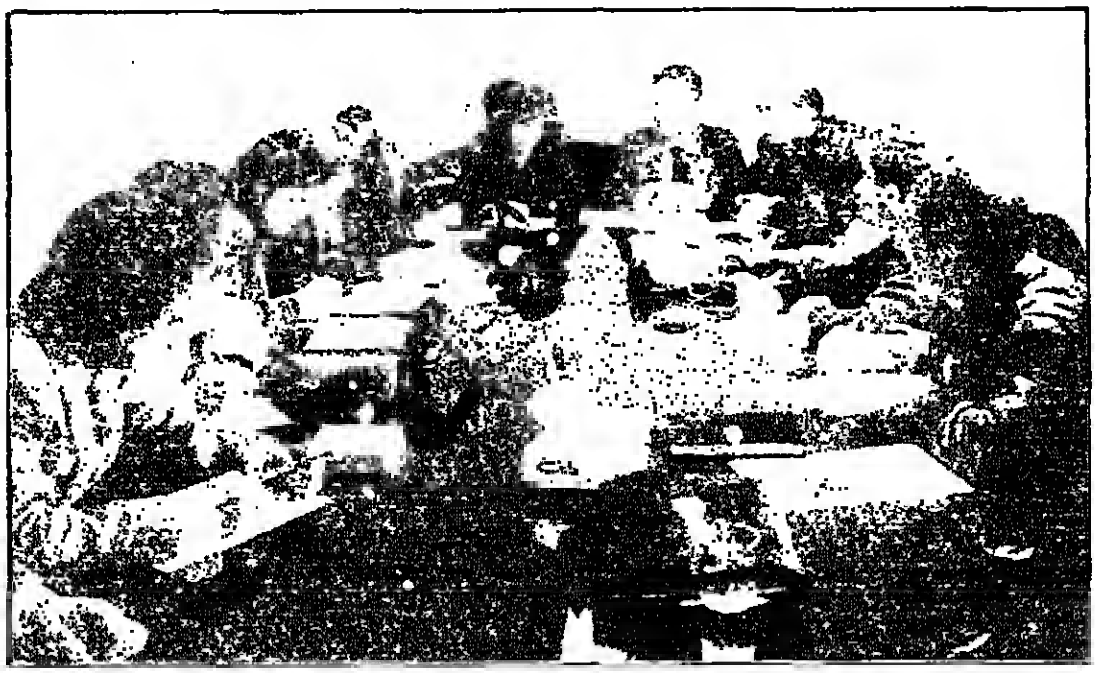
The delegation, who will be leaving Tuesday, will first present their findings to their colleagues in Sweden. "Then we will suggest some of the questions we raised to be investigated," said Bromssen, citing the quality of water in Al Samra treatment plant as one example.

The project, expected to take three to five years, will be implemented in cooperation with the Department of Environment in Jordan and the Swedish Ministry of Environment. The Swedish Ambassador, Lars Lonnback, said at the beginning of the press conference that Sweden is offering some financial support to bring experts to Jordan and to send Jordanian specialists to Sweden.

In addition, BITS, a Swedish international agency, is offering scholarships, conducting feasibility studies and favourable loans for the project.

Dr. Sufian Al Tal, head of the Department of Environment, noted that the department lacks air and water control equipment since "it is very expensive."

"We hope that in the near future, we will receive some equipment through the United Nations," he said.



Two Swedish experts Sunday speak at a press conference on air and water pollution in Jordan at the Department of Environment in Amman. Also present is the Swedish Ambassador to Jordan Lars Lonnback and Director of the Department of Environment, Sufian Al Tal (Petra photo)

Cold wave to last until Tuesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The current cold wave accompanied by heavy snow fall in many parts of the Kingdom is expected to last until Tuesday, bringing in more rain and snow, according to Meteorology Department Director General Ali Abanda.

Abanda said the Kingdom was affected by a cold front originating in the polar region and passing through eastern Soviet Union, Turkey and Greece, causing the creation of a cold depression north east of Cyprus.

Snow fell on mountainous regions of 750 to 1,200 metres high and rain in most parts of the country, Abanda said.

The present wave came at the end of a three-week frost wave that hit most parts of the Kingdom.

Abanda said that up to 80 millimetres of water fell in 24 hours in high regions, such as Karak, while the central parts of the country received up to 50 millimetres.

The Public Security Department (PSD) announced that several roads in the north and south were blocked with snow and covered with a thick blanket of fog making them impassable.

In Madaba the Public Safety and Emergency Committee reported that its teams were hard at

work opening roads blocked by snow or landslides.

Madaba District Governor Khalil Khreisat urged people living in low lying areas to move to safer ground.

Also in Madaba, it was announced that a ceremony that would have taken place there under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

for the distribution of awards to municipalities, which won a competition for the best services to the public, has been cancelled until further notice.

The winning municipalities were to have received awards after being selected as the best among 141 for their services to the public.



Selling fuel during the current cold wave which hit the Kingdom Sunday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

U.S. agency contributes JD 14,500 for projects sponsored by GUVS

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has contributed JD 14,500 towards projects sponsored by six member societies of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

The Al Mansoura Society for Social Development will utilise JD 3,000 for a land reclamation project that involves construction of a reservoir and installation of a pump for irrigation.

Another JD 3,000 will assist the Grane Welfare Society to construct three folds to protect locally raised sheep from adverse winter weather.

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation is expanding its assistance to families of handicapped children by providing specially designed equipment to be used at home. The equipment makes home care easier and permits parents to continue the training their children receive while at the foundation's centre. The foundation contracts with a local manufacturer who produces the equipment at cost as a public service. GUVS is assisting this project

with JD 2,000, USAID with JD 3,000 and the Cerebral Palsy Foundation with another JD 3,000. The project will benefit over 100 children.

Several of the projects funded will provide vocational training for women. These include the Masmevya Welfare Society's sewing workshop at Baqa'a Refugee Camp, the Kufrusum Voluntary Society's training for typists in Irbid, and the establishment of a beauty salon and training centre in Ma'an by the Housewives' Society.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Guiragossian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- An exhibition of lithographies by French artist Jean-Paul Chambras at the French Cultural Centre.
- The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- An exhibition of drawings and watercolours of German Romanticism at Mu'ta University.
- An exhibition entitled "Town Squares of Europe" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- An art exhibition entitled "Warm Colours in the Jordanian Environment" by students from the University of Jordan, at the Yarmouk University.

LECTURE

- A lecture, in Arabic on import and export policy in achieving food security by Dr. Abdul Salam Kanaana at the Biology Auditorium in the University of Jordan — 12 noon.

FILM

- A French film entitled "The Name of the Rose" which is shown as part of the European Film Week at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

Transport committee ends talks in Amman

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A technical committee formed by Jordan, Iraq and Egypt to discuss promoting transport and communications operations between the three countries has wound up a meeting in Amman Sunday but no statement was issued following the final session.

The committee members held a meeting last week with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan and reviewed ways to promote operations and activities of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC).

The committee reviewed plans for the company's operations in 1989 and measures to overcome obstacles impeding the development of the Aqaba-Nweibeh land sea route which serve the three countries.



3,000 bus drivers needed

MINISTER of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan Sunday chaired a meeting to discuss the question of providing training to drivers of buses, mini-buses and trucks because of driver shortage in Jordan. The minister stressed the importance of implementing the project by the end of this month, so that Jordanians will replace non-Jordanian drivers in this area, a move that will not doubt save foreign currency. The minister said that the country is in need of at least 3,000 drivers on various vehicles. Representatives from the Public Security Department, the Jordan-Iraq Land Transport Company and the private sector were present at the meeting. (Petra)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جوردين تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Europe could still do more

THE TROIKA European Economic Community (EEC) foreign ministers working visit to Jordan is of course a very welcomed event. Jordan has always subscribed to the conviction that the European Community has a very valuable role to play in the quest for peace in the Middle East. Recent developments in the region, especially in the wake of the Palestinian uprising, have made the European role rather indispensable to the peace process. This unique European role has lately been further accentuated by the apparent decision of the Bash administration to go slow on its involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict pending a general review of its posture on all regional and international issues and conflicts.

What the Arab side is mostly concerned about is the fear that the peace process in the Middle East is irrevocably locked in a vicious circle without a real start or end. That is why the words of Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordenez, leader of the EEC delegation visiting Jordan, that the EEC has no new initiative are music in the ears of the Arabs. One cannot help but agree with the Spanish foreign minister when he said that the world had enough initiatives and it is now time to start the process of implementing existing initiatives. Otherwise the countries and peoples of the Middle East would be truly going in circles without an end in sight.

The question that is uppermost on the minds of the Arabs is where do we go from here, especially in view of the latest American position to put its participation in the Middle Eastern peace process on hold. The answer surely must come from Europe which happens to hold many cards in its hands. With the Palestinian intifada well into its fifteenth month and the casualty rate among them ever more increasing, it is no longer enough to rely on friendly persuasion tactics to convince the Israeli government to heed the international call for a speedy resolution of the Palestinian conflict. As the Israeli economy has gotten more vulnerable than ever due to the prolongation of the Palestinian revolt, now is the time for Europe to apply pressure where it could hurt Israeli pockets. There is no need to spell out all the measures available to Europe should it wish to help Israel see the light of day as they are indeed plentiful.

While the U.S. may afford to let the chances of arriving at a permanent and just settlement in the Middle East slip away, Europe cannot. Europe and the Middle East region are organically linked and intertwined in more than one way. European countries have a special responsibility towards the countries of the Middle East and naturally these countries look to them for full involvement in the stalemate peace process. That is why Jordan and the rest of the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict view with optimum favour the current visit of the European troika to their capitals in these critical times and expect much to come out of it.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

In its editorial Sunday Al Ra'i Arabic daily commented on a visit to Amman by EEC foreign ministers who came to discuss the Middle East question in the course of their tour of the area. At a meeting here, the three ministers heard Jordan's views on the situation from His Majesty King Hussein who underlined the importance of a speedy solution based on justice and through an international conference in which all concerned parties should participate. Al Ra'i said. The three ministers, the paper said, voiced support for Jordan's stand which they described as contributing to the establishment of peace. The three ministers have thus acquainted themselves with the Jordanian position and there is no doubt they will hear similar views in their visits to Damascus and Cairo, the paper added. It is gratifying to see the European Community seriously involved in a process that would lead to a settlement and to see the leaders of the European Community convinced on the need to exercise pressure on Israel to accept the idea of an international conference to reach a lasting peace with the Arab World, the paper added. It said that the Europeans are qualified to contribute most efficiently to the process of a settlement, and if they pursue their efforts they are bound to help this area to enjoy peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily comments on Iran's response to the pressures of the international community to take more steps towards peace with Iraq. Mahmoud Rizaoui says that following pressures from inside and outside of Iran, the Tehran regime has finally accepted the idea of opening the stalled talks with Iraq under the United Nations auspices for the sake of reaching a final settlement based on U.N. Security Council resolution 598. The writer says that the two parties to the Gulf conflict realise the need for peace and the Iranians seem now to have realised this fact and realised also that stalling over the past five months earned Tehran nothing and could earn it nothing. The writer expresses hope that the new endeavours and the new initiative under the U.N. in New York will continue and be crowned with success.

Al Dustour daily wrote about the European Community's fresh endeavour to find a settlement for the Middle East conflict. The visit here by the European ministers assumes significance especially as it comes in the wake of serious and important developments in the region that saw the PLO recognising the U.N. Security Council resolutions, the atrocities committed by the Israelis against the Palestinians and the on-going uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the paper said. Jordan has welcomed the new European initiative and will no doubt facilitate the community's endeavour to convene an international conference at which a lasting peace can be worked out by all the concerned parties, the paper noted. It said that the European Community's move could have a deep effect in Israel and no doubt will impress the United States which itself must make moves that are most welcomed by all peace-loving nations.

Information minister addresses American journalists

Khasawneh: King Hussein contributed positively to forces of peace option

Development plans ideal under personal direction of King and Crown Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American media have a leading role to play in changing the thinking of Israeli leaders and decision-makers towards accepting a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Information Minister Hani Khasawneh said Sunday.

Addressing a group of visiting American journalists representing the National Newspapers Association, Dr. Khasawneh said the Palestinian people, together with Jordan and other Arab countries, were extending an olive branch and offering peace based on all people's right to live in security and stability and on recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to set up their own state.

The minister paid tribute to the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and said no force — local, regional or international — would be able to end the anti-occupation revolt. The only force capable of bringing about an end to the intifada "is the force of peace and only the force of peace," Dr. Khasawneh said.

Following is the full text of Dr. Khasawneh's speech to the American journalists:

You are the representatives of

the most prominent sector in the United States. The American press plays a dominant and basic role, in both the official level and popular day-to-day life within the community, and is also the major means of relaying reality and events to the public.

The American press has a glorious and honourable record in exposing misdeeds and in defending human rights. Its ranks include male and female luminaries whose work is a source of pride not only to Americans but also to the international community.

The nature of the American society, the demographic and constitutional grounds on which it was founded, and its integrated economic resources, combined with people's energy provided by a self-sustaining sub-continent, have succeeded in bringing about happiness and prosperity to the American individual.

As a result of its tremendous success in the social and economic fields, the American society has provided the paradigm that makes others covet economic, social and spiritual stability, and yearn to belong to a superpower governed by the constitution and law.

The values cherished by the American society as along the

same lines of the values of the people of Jordan and the Arab Nation at large. We believe in liberty, equality and fraternity, and both look forward to seeing a world dominated by these values through extensive cooperation within the international community in an attempt to reinforce international law, to bolster cohesion for achieving comprehensive and enduring peace, and to settle problems that threaten global peace and deplete the potentials of states and individuals.

In our region, Jordan's main concern revolves around two major issues:

The first is the Middle East problem, which remains unresolved and which not only threatens peace in the region and its people's right to enjoy stability but also poses a menace to global peace.

The latest aspect of the problem is the comprehensive Palestinian uprising. During the 14 months since it erupted, the people of Palestine offered over 400 lives, including children, women and youth, and over 27,000 prisoners, in their collective, peaceful and legitimate resistance. The Palestinians revolted on their own initiative, without any external instigation but their own realisation

of the injustice, suppression and tyranny of the Israeli occupation, and their determination and firm resolve to reject subservience and their refusal to accept the occupation as a fait accompli.

No local, regional or international force can halt the intifada. The only force capable of bringing about an end to it is the force of peace and only the force of peace, Jordan, and His Majesty King Hussein in particular, have contributed positively to this force of peace and transformed it into a Palestinian and comprehensive Arab option by providing it with momentum.

The Palestinian people, together with Jordan and the Arab countries are extending a hand holding an olive branch and offering peace based on all people's right to live in security, and on the recognition of the people of Palestine to set up their own state on their land through an international conference that guarantees the establishment of peace and realisation of all its requisites. So far, the intransigent party that is rejecting the extended hand of the Palestinians and Arabs is Israel, which refuses to recognise the existence of the people of Palestine, to talk to them and to reach a real peace

with them.

The big hope of peace lies in the fact that there are extensive divisions within the Israeli society. There is a powerful Israeli trend which is very keen not to lose this available opportunity for peace. This trend is gaining strength and support through the collaboration of leading elements from the Israeli society.

All support extended by the world press will give this trend and direction a badly-needed momentum and impetus.

We strongly welcome you in Jordan and we want you to see the facts. We are confident that your contribution to this call for expanding the spheres of thinking of politicians and decision-makers in Israel and in the region will provide the quest for peace with a fresh momentum, which is greatly needed by the supporters and defenders of peace.

The other challenge confronting Jordan is development and the requirements for building a modern state and society with all its economic, housing and food needs, in addition to employment opportunities and all the requirements of self-reliance, increasing production and developing the national economy, in light of the fact that our country has limited



Hani Khasawneh

resources but is surrounded by affluent and natural resources of which we are deprived. We have succeeded ideally in development plans as a result of the enlightened administration that pursues development personally by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Development in Jordan is basically founded in backing the initiative of the individual, encouraging the public sector, developing free trade and bolstering international cooperation in the domains of economic and commercial exchange.

I started my address by welcoming you as representatives of a great and successful society and as representatives of the American press, which plays the dominant part in reinforcing the foundations of peace and rapprochement among mankind. Let me conclude by reaffirming that we in Jordan look forward to strengthening the friendship which we strive to create between your great country and ours.

Israeli army's deadly game

By Joel Greenberg

RAS A-TIYA — Five minutes from Kfar Sava, within site of its high-rise apartment complexes, a deadly cat-and-mouse game is being played between soldiers and Palestinian fugitives in the orchards of this West Bank village.

Residents of Ras a-Tiya say they don't step out of their houses after dark anymore. Not since a 40-year-old father of ten was shot dead by soldiers staking out the orchards for wanted youths late last month. Villagers say the army has warned them to stay home at night, to avoid being shot.

The ambushes in the countryside between Ras a-Tiya and Hable are part of a concerted effort by the army to catch Palestinian youths wanted for a range of activities connected to the uprising: threatening and attacking fellow Palestinians considered to be "collaborators" with Israel; violently enforcing strikes and work boycotts, and organising demonstrations.

The wanted youths, some of whom have been in hiding since the early days of the uprising, have in many places taken to the hills, living in the countryside, sleeping outside their villages or in safe-houses so they won't be caught during army raids. They return periodically, masked with keffiyehs, to carry on their underground activities, effectively leading the uprising in many areas.

These "outlaws" have become something of a legend in the West Bank, which is precisely why they are being targeted by the security authorities as a matter of policy that is backed by Defence Minister Rabin. The authorities believe that any successful capture of these youths tangibly reduces the revolt in a specific area.

The all-out effort to ambush and catch the fugitives is increasingly assuming a pattern similar to confrontations with armed infiltrators along the Lebanon border, with similar results. In its reports of the clash in the area of Ras a-Tiya, the army used the word *hitkafit*, or "engagement," precisely the word used to describe firefights on the northern border, like the soldiers in the north, the troops lying in ambush opened fire, killing and wounding people.

An initial debriefing at the scene by Gen. Amram Mitzna found that the soldiers had acted properly, following the army's "procedure for apprehending suspects": shouting orders to stop, firing warning shots in the air, and when these failed, shooting at the legs. (The Military Police are still investigating the incident.)

Villagers, including eyewitnesses and persons wounded in two clashes, provided different accounts.

The first clash occurred on Monday night, January 23, the eve of a general strike, when, according to the reports, a group of masked youths set up a barricade of rocks along the road out of Ras a-Tiya to prevent residents from travelling at dawn to jobs in Israel.

Incident Khaled Marda



Don Wright © 1987 The Miami News.

U.S.: North Yemen 'important player' in the Gulf region

By Rosalind Mandine

WASHINGTON — The United States views the Yemen Arab Republic as "an important player" which is vital to the stability and progress of the Gulf area, according to former U.S. ambassador to Yemen William Rugh.

Ambassador Rugh and Yemen experts Dr. J.E. Peterson and Dr. Sheila Carapico addressed 100 people attending the conference "Yemen Under President Saleh — Ten Years of Change," February 8. The conference was sponsored by the Middle East Institute.

The United States supports the independence and security of North Yemen, said Rugh, who was ambassador there from 1984 to 1987. The United States does provide military assistance to Yemen but has concentrated on the non-military side of its relationship, the ambassador pointed out.

The United States is involved in agriculture, health, clean water, education and training in Yemen, according to Rugh. He pointed to a substantial presence of Peace Corps volunteers in Yemen as one example of U.S. involvement. Although this assistance is not "as visible as aircraft and tanks" it is an important part of U.S.-Yemeni relations, the ambassador stressed.

The United States has provided Yemen with military assistance both bilaterally and trilaterally in cooperation with Saudi Arabia, said Rugh. Since 1979, the U.S. has provided Yemen with \$20 million in military assistance, he added.

The private sector is an important part of the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and Yemen, Rugh emphasised. The Hunt Company's involvement in the discovery of petroleum in Yemen and the construction of refineries and a pipeline, is one example of how the private sector can enhance U.S.-Yemeni relations, the ambassador said.

He pointed out that the U.S. private sector's relationship with Yemen goes back 200 years and that it will "increasingly become important and enhance the relationship."

In regard to The Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen, the Yemen Arab Republic "has to be concerned on the basis of experience," Rugh said. He referred to the two previous incursions by South Yemen across North Yemen's border. Rugh pointed to the recent establishment of a joint investment company that will pursue oil exploration along the North-South border as a hopeful sign that mutual interest will lead to cooperation between North and South Yemen. Mutual interest notwithstanding, "wariness of intentions in Aden" will be part of North Yemen's policy towards its neighbour, Rugh added.

Although regional issues are a priority for Yemen, it has demonstrated support for Middle Eastern concerns and an interest in expanding its global relations, Rugh said. Yemen participated in the mediation of the Iran-Iraq war, sent Yemeni soldiers to Iraq and has played host to "Palestinian fighters who had to leave Lebanon," Rugh said.

Yemen has pursued a non-aligned position and has carefully maintained cordial relations with all parties in the region, the ambassador explained. A result of this policy has been the "dramatic expansion of diplomatic relations between Yemen and the world" under President Saleh, Rugh pointed out.

The Soviet Union provides a significant amount of military assistance to Yemen, but has not been as successful in the economic side of its bilateral relations, Rugh said. In a comparison of U.S. and Soviet assistance to Yemen, Rugh said he felt "Americans can be proud of the performance of American equipment, technology and personnel in the official relationship and in the private sector's relationship" with Yemen.

Turning to economic issues, Rugh said oil wealth will not solve all of Yemen's problems. Yemen will continue to look for foreign assistance "without strings and without regard to ideology," he said. Yemen actively encourages foreign assistance, workers' remittances and the development of the private sector, the ambassador said. Yemen's economic policies are based on a commitment to rapid development and construction of infrastructure and the maintenance of a low foreign debt. Rugh explained.

Dr. Carapico concurred with the assessment that oil wealth will not have a great economic impact on Yemen. She explained that the revenue future production of oil will earn for Yemen will not make up for the loss of revenue

caused by the decline of remittances and foreign assistance. Oil revenue will have a greater impact on the political structure, she said. This is because the oil revenue will lead to a greater concentration of currency in the hands of the government than before; previously revenue earned through workers' remittances was spread throughout the population, she pointed out. The result will be an increase of available currency for government planners, which will be targeted for sectors such as agriculture and human services and in turn strengthen the technocratic segment of society, she said.

On internal Yemeni politics, Dr. Peterson stated that President Saleh has proven to be the most "capable and long-lasting president of Yemen." President Saleh has accomplished this through the continuation and expansion of his predecessor Ibrahim Al Hamdi's policies of modernisation, commitment to development, centralisation and a partnership between the military and the technocrats, Peterson said.

Ambassador Rugh is presently Diplomat-in-Residence and visiting professor at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy at Tufts University. He is the author of "The Arab Press." Dr. Carapico is a professor at the University of Richmond and the author of "Yemeni Agriculture and Economic Change." Dr. Peterson is the author of "The Arab Gulf States: Steps Toward Political Participation." — U.S. Information Agency

Features

Jordanian yuppies: a view from within

This is the first of a two part article by Samer Badar.

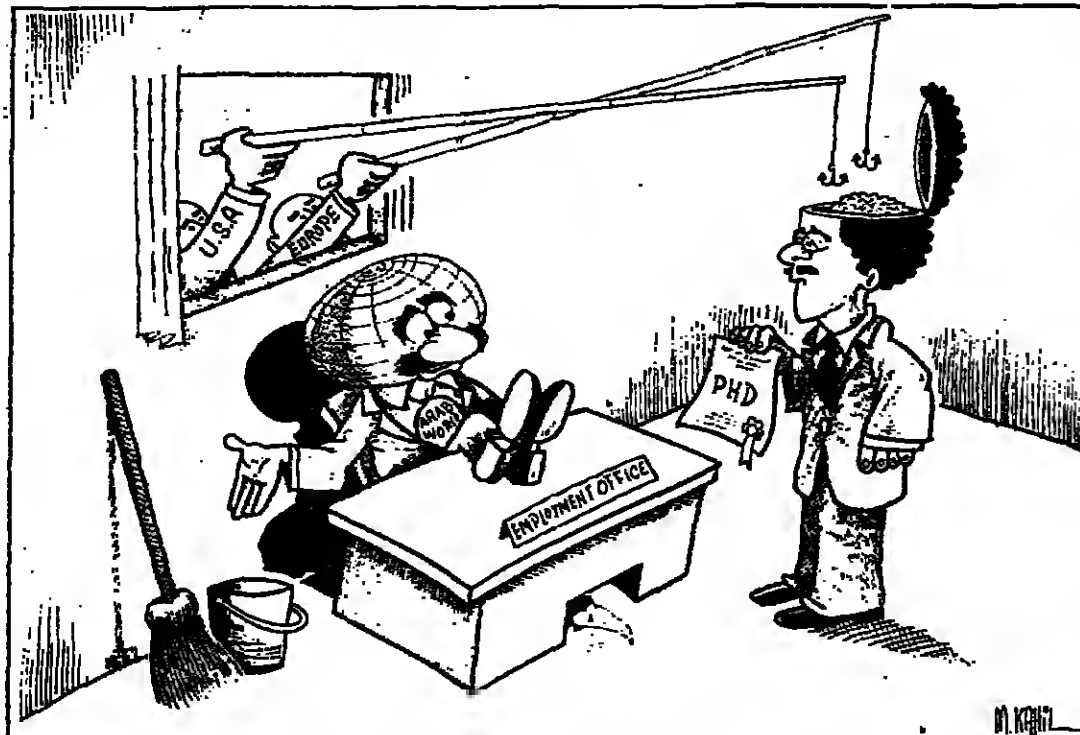
AMMAN — Jordan's engagement in the field of genetic engineering has traditionally suffered from inadequate funding and lack of enthusiasm and recognition that foreshadows the country's monumental advances. Yet these advances continue to perplex enlightened specialists in this revolutionary field.

The latest such contribution is the Jordanian YUP, YUPs, or yuppies as some would call them, stand for Young Underemployed Professionals — different from the American YUP, or Young Upwardly-Mobile Professional. The new genus has been obtained by crossbreeding youths with indigenous chromosome stock with Western mentality and professional education. The output was then transplanted back into original conditions and scientifically stationed into positions were they least fit. The success of the breeding process has been on such a scale that yuppies now form an independent social sector of definite make-up, neither Jordanian

nor Western, but a hybrid having characteristics from both archetypes.

Transplanted but never absorbed, the Jordanian yuppie is conscious of his uniqueness. He is anything but shy. Eager for exposure, anxious for dialogue (especially when conducted in bilingual capacity) and, having allowed his subscription with Newsweek to lapse, a loyal reader of the Jordan Times, our task, interviewing the Jordanian yuppie, was made easier. Our findings amazed us, for they were consistent with the scientific research. Some had better fortunes than others, but practically all yuppies were underemployed in one way or another. Highly qualified but lowly paid for what they do, or highly paid and lowly qualified for what they pretend to do.

Behind the manager's desk at a personally frequented autopart store (I drive an Italian car you understand) hangs a Cum Laude Bachelor's diploma in political



science having the manager's name. The manager, who like others interviewed here shall remain nameless for the purposes of the continuing research, explains with extended allegories the politics and the high wealing and dealing that landed him his career. Apparently he has been a solid candidate for a post in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by virtue of his academic credentials and his brilliant performance in

the ministry's exam. His file (his case really), however was lost between ministers. Three years ago he decided to accept his current position while the search for his file goes on.

Next we approached a yuppie with degrees in philology, social psychology, and organisational theory. He said that he was twice offered secondary school teaching positions, but was now working as a building contractor.

"The choice was between teaching at 120 JD/month or doing what I do now." He apologised then about participating in our survey, saying "my work is published in three European languages. I am sure you can gain access to it if you're interested in my views." We chanced asking him if he tried any of the local universities, his smiling reply was a concise "yes." We left it at that.

Work — Japanese style

By Art Buchwald

WASHINGTON — According to David Sanger of The New York Times, the Japanese are having a very difficult time persuading their workers to put in a five-day week. For years everyone was content to work six days, so trying to adjust to five has not been easy.

This campaign for a reduction in hours is meant to encourage more leisure time, as well as allow the worker to spend a lot more yen in the homeland. Japanese institutions, from the banks to the unions, are trying to force a radical change of lifestyle, and there has been great resistance to the proposal. According to Sanger, 30 per cent of the Japanese people are in favour of a five-day work week, and 70 per cent are against it.

Using leisure time to its utmost is one area where Americans excel over the Japanese. In fact, we spend twice as much time being laid back (figuratively speaking) as our trading partners across the seas.

Therefore, the Japanese are hiring American firms to convince the workers in Japan that a 40-hour week is better than a 48-hour one, no matter what their bosses tell them.

Thank God it's Friday

One U.S. consulting firm, called TGIFU (Thank God It's Friday in Japan), is run by Lawrence Bathgate Jr. and his company has landed a major contract with the Japanese.

Lawrence told me, "This is the toughest job I've ever had. Every time I try to get the Japanese to relax, they jump up and start welding another bumper onto a



Art Buchwald

car while singing the Toyota fight song."

"How do you know where to start?" I asked.

"I've been sending over students from the United States to teach them a thing or two. If anyone knows how to take life easy, it's the American youngster."

"What approach do the students take?"

"As soon as they set foot on Japanese soil, they go to the beach. Our goal is to persuade the people of Japan that they can get as much pleasure from sunbathing as they can from screwing the back onto a Sony Walkman. American kids are great when it comes to teaching others how not to lift a finger."

Golf courses

"How do you convince the Japanese that a five-day week is better than a six-day one?"

"We have advised the government that they cannot do it unless

they build more golf courses. People can't be expected to take the weekend off if they have golf courses to play on."

"I hope that they have responded positively."

"Yes, they're building golf courses as fast as they can. The trouble is that while they're waiting to tee off, the workers keep heading for the factories because they want to build just one microwave oven."

"Is there anything you can do about that?" I asked Bathgate.

"My people are only attempting to teach the virtues of leisure. We try to impress upon the Japanese that it is more productive to go to a department store than it is to produce a hand-held typewriter which also doubles as a fax machine. Our message is that the only road to true bliss is to acquire as many material goods as their huses will hold. We are telling them that there is no happiness to be found on the slopes of Mount Fuji than in the skyscrapers in Osaka."

"Are they buying the message?"

"Not too well. The male workers are very worried that if you cut them down from a six-day week to a five-day one, it will mean spending two days at home with their families. They're afraid that their wives won't then make them do chores around the house. That very fear is what drove them to work six days a week in the first place."

"I can see it's not easy to make people relax in a country where the work ethic is so powerful."

"You don't have to remind me. The officials who hired my firm have ordered us to work six days a week until we come up with a solution to the problem."

Outcry over India's dam project

The environmental deterioration brought on by major irrigation projects in India has caused an outcry and led to a reassessment of development priorities.

By Bishwajit Choudhury

NEW DELHI — On a sweltering summer night, Onkar, a resident of Ghantali in Rajasthan, was accosted by guards while he was collecting fodder in the forest. The guards beat him up and confiscated his axe, telling him he'll have to pay to get it back.

But Onkar had gone into the forest as generations of Bhil tribespeople of Rajasthan have done over many years — to collect food, fuel and fodder. On that day, however, he was making a desperate foray, hoping to avoid the guards, in the last remaining patch of what used to be a dense teak forest.

For virtually hundreds of years, tribespeople like the Bhil have depended on the forest for their livelihood, but now they feel threatened. Recent satellite photographs revealed that only 10 per cent of India's geographical area remains under good forest cover. Further damage to India's forests, and the lifestyles of people like Onkar, is being predicted as the government strives towards increasingly larger irrigation systems to boost the country's agricultural production.

While forests disappear, government laws make tribespeople intruders in their own habitat. The forest administration keeps strict control and the latest government policy to be placed before parliament says that "the entry of private persons into forests for collecting fuel is to be avoided."

Denied entry ostensibly for environmental protection, the tribespeople, by a cruel irony, watch the forests being destroyed by commercial users. The commercial exploitation for timber has turned whole areas into scrubland. According to the Centre for Science and Environment,

a Delhi-based organisation of journalists and researchers, a major cause of the disappearance of forests in recent years is the indiscriminate exploitation by private firms and individuals in collusion with state forest departments. The centre has documented evidence showing that virtually no part of India has escaped this environmental plunder.

The environmental deterioration has spawned popular movements amongst tribespeople and hill dwellers. Some campaigns have existed for several years. In the mid-1970s women from the hill villages in the Garhwal region of the Himalayas began to hug trees, rather than allow timber contractors, to cut them down. Called "Chipko" (Hug!), the novel protest illustrated the threat to livelihoods as a result of commercial forestry.

Environmental deterioration in India is necessarily linked to subsistence and survival. The loss of the natural green cover as a result of floods over the past five years has caused damage worth \$3.3 billion. Topsoil erosion is estimated to cost India at least \$8 billion a year. Over the last seven years, one out of every seven square kilometres of area under forest has been denuded. As a result, India is experiencing floods during the monsoons — because of erosion — and droughts during the dry season, when the earth is unable to retain groundwater.

Amidst this, the government has approved a scheme that has outraged the environmentalists. The Narmada Valley Project, on the 1,280-kilometre Narmada river, will be the largest project of its kind ever undertaken in India. To be spread over three provinces — Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and

Maharashtra — the project will entail the construction of 30 major dams and over 3,000 minor dams. Present estimates say it will cost at least \$10 billion.

Ecologists say the project is the most glaring example of environmental destruction in the name of "prosperity." About a million people will be displaced, the chief victims being the tribal populations of Bhils, Gonds, Korkus, Kirs and Bhilades in the Narmada Valley. The project will destroy their lifestyles or make them even more dependent on the remaining forests and lead to further ecological damage.

M.N. Buck, a former civil servant and chairman of the National Centre for Human Settlements and Environment, said the Narmada Valley project would deprive Madhya Pradesh province alone of some 50,000 hectares of forest, which will be submerged. Another 50,000 hectares will face degradation because of additional pressures from displaced villagers and about 100,000 hectares will be encroached upon for cultivation.

The controversy over the big dams challenges the precepts of development in the country. Described by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India, as the "temples of Modern India," the capital-intensive mammoth ventures were devised for large-scale irrigation and power generation. Increased irrigation and power generation, along with fertilisers and pesticides, were the pivots of a new agricultural strategy in the 1960s — the Green Revolution — which sought to raise productivity with extra inputs.

Environmentalists from all over the country gathered last year in Gujarat (the province to be irrigated by the Narmada project) to warn against the present trends in development. The existing 1,500 big dams in the country, they declared, had caused wholesale destruction of natural

resources, particularly forests. In a resolution on big dams, they said, "we consider them symbols of destruction in the name of development."

Aside from destroying forest cover, the dam irrigation has caused extensive water-logging and rendered millions of hectares infertile. The Green Revolution, therefore, has been a mixed blessing. Sunderlal Bahuguna, of the Chipko Movement, said, "We have been using the soil like an industry — feeding it increasing amounts of raw materials in the form of fertilisers. Now the soil has been so conditioned that it is demanding more fertilisers and an increased water supply to help our crops grow."

B.B. Vohra, an administrator, put the gains of the Green Revolution in perspective. "We can barely manage to produce 130 million tonnes of food grain from 143 million hectares of agricultural land, while China produces more than 300 million tonnes from a mere 112 million hectares." He blamed this failure on land degradation and had water management.

The natural resources conserved by avoiding the construction of dams can be the key to an alternative way of development which benefits the poor. This is perhaps best explained by the outcome of the fiercest environmental debate in the country.

Silent Valley, in the southern province of Kerala, is one of the few remaining tropical rainforests in the country. The Kerala government planned to dam the valley for a hydro-electric project. The project caused a major uproar, and the proposal was dropped in 1983 after the then prime minister, Indira Gandhi, intervened. Had she not stepped in, a forest rich in wood, water and other resources would have been destroyed only to yield power.

The short-term gains of building huge dams, with inevitable delays and cost overruns of 500

per cent or more, are far outweighed by the benefits that a healthy forest cover provides in perpetuity — maintaining soil and water stability, regulating climate and providing fuel, fodder and other forest produce.

The early emphasis on dams and big industry in India was based on the belief that with a basic infrastructure in place benefits would spread to the rest of society. However, this has not happened. Half the population lives below the poverty line, with a daily spending of 17 cents or less per person.

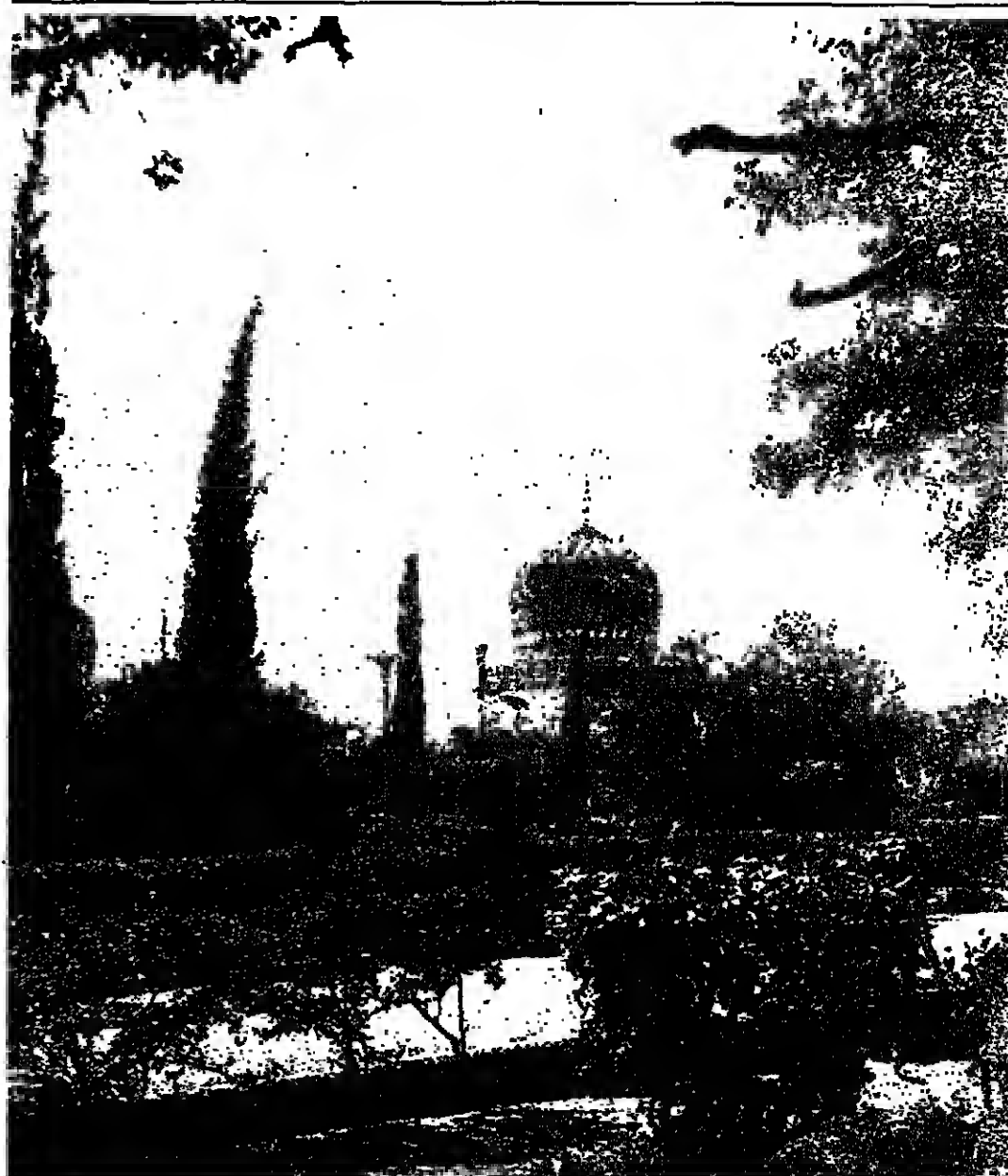
The debate in India inevitably has led to the question of who benefits from the current pattern of growth. The answer invariably points to the rich and influential sections of society.

It is here that the Third World environmental issues become qualitatively different from western concerns. While the West seeks a clean and beautiful environment as an answer to air and water pollution and disposal of toxic industrial waste and nuclear waste, the Third World still is having to cope with the misuse of its natural resource base — the soils, the forests and water.

The environmental degradation has led to greater poverty. An obvious example from India is the Rajasthan desert where Onkar lives. It was once fully forested, but cultivation of marginal land led to overgrazing and cutting of trees on remaining land. The result was soil degradation and further impoverishment of the cultivator.

The environmental crisis now affecting millions in India is destroying the dogma of "environment versus development." Economic growth is now seen as a necessary, but not sufficient, condition of development. In the new awareness, economic goals are an integral component of development, both mutually dependent and interacting.

Academic File.



Countryside in Hyderabad, India. India's green areas are shrinking, raising serious questions about the country's irrigation and environmental protection policies.



B.B. Vohra, an administrator, put the gains of the Green Revolution in perspective. "We can barely manage to produce 130 million tonnes of food grain from 143 million hectares of agricultural land, while China produces more than 300 million tonnes from a mere 112 million hectares." He blamed this failure on land degradation and had water management.

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China expands overseas investments

PEKING (R) — China's investment abroad is booming — from restaurants in Africa to a proposed mill in the United States — but at home the state is trying to reassert central control over an economy in chaos.

Last year, China spent \$150 million on opening a record 168 businesses abroad, the China Daily said Sunday.

In the pipeline is a Chinese-run \$1 billion pulp mill in the United States. If government negotiations are successful, a steel plant in Malaysia with \$100 million worth of Chinese equipment.

Joint ventures in Pakistan and Zambia to exploit copper resources are also planned, the official newspaper said.

"The paramount principle of our investment abroad is that the businesses must be mutually beneficial," senior foreign investment official Chen Yongcai was quoted as saying.

When Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping launched his bold economic reforms to rejuvenate a stagnated economy, Peking had barely a cent invested abroad.

Ten years later, China is involved in 553 projects in 79 countries and regions with a total investment of \$2 billion — much of it borrowed from foreign banks.

"We've been using foreign money to earn foreign money," Chen said.

He predicted that the domestic austerity programme launched last September to contain inflation and overbearing would not affect overseas investment.

"China, after decades of isolation, is being drawn more and more into world markets. This trend will continue despite the clampdown at home," a Western banker commented.

China's businesses include a restaurant in Burkina Faso, a U.S. timber company, an aluminium smelter and iron ore mine in Australia and even a tourist resort in the Bahamas.

Success takes time. Five to six per cent of China's foreign ventures are run at a loss and 20 to 30 per cent make only minimal profits because of poor market planning and bad management, Chen said.

China's rapprochement with the Soviet Union — to be sealed by a Sino-Soviet summit in May — has resulted in talks to establish joint ventures in the chemical, oil, construction and light industrial sectors.

The main problem is the Soviet Union's lack of hard currency, Chen added.

While spending soars abroad, the government is struggling to contain domestic budgets and reassert its central control to cool an overheated economy and reduce inflation.

The government has decided to monopolise trade in vital commodities such as chemical fertiliser, pesticide, diesel oil, steel, non-ferrous metals and chemical raw materials, a senior economist has announced.

Administrative budgets of government institutions will be cut by 10 per cent this year, Song Tingming said in the latest issue of New China Quarterly.

A Western diplomat said the central government was trying to impose order and reestablish its monopoly over certain commodities because a two-tier system of low state prices and higher free market prices had led to chaos and widespread corruption and added to inflation.

The Communist Party has pledged that inflation in 1989 will be substantially lower than last year, when prices rose an average 18.5 per cent, highest since the 1949 revolution.

China's economic forecasting department has predicted industrial output will grow by 12 per cent this year, down from almost 18 per cent in 1988, because of tighter credit control and higher interest rates, the official New China News Agency said Saturday.

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Analysts predict decline in Wall Street stocks

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street stocks may take more falls as investors worry that higher interest rates could depress the U.S. economy, brokerage analysts said this weekend.

The Dow Jones industrial average has lost more than 57 points in the past two sessions.

Further decline could unsettle other stock markets around the globe which have rallied along with New York since the start of the year. London's FTSE index of 100 British blue chips dropped 40 points over Thursday and Friday.

Brokerage analysts on Wall Street say the New York market is disappointed with President Bush's budget proposals and is also concerned by signs of rising inflation which may call for yet higher interest rates to snuff it out.

Major U.S. banks Friday raised prime lending rates (the rates they charge leading customers) from 10.5 to 11 per cent.

Earlier, government figures showed a rise of one per cent in the producer price index in January, the biggest in three years.

"The interest rate fears may have always been there but now they have taken on a higher profile," said Stephen Mortenson, managing director of research at Blunt Ellis and Loewi Inc.

"Stocks are now due for a five per cent to 10 per cent correction from the recent highs on a whole host of negative news — principally the disappointment on inflation and the combination of these indicating that interest rates have to go higher," said Allen Sinai, chief economist at the Boston Co. investment firm.

Bush announced his budget for the 1990 fiscal year starting in October to Congress Thursday. Analysts said the package did not meet expectations for strong, specific steps to reduce a deficit likely to top \$160 billion this year.

They also said the strong rise in producer prices showed that action so far by the Federal Reserve (Fed) to reduce inflation had not been enough and the central bank might have to tighten its grip on credit further.

Markets like governments to be strict with inflation but they fret if the interest rate medicine is too strong.

High rates tend to syphon money out of stocks to interest-bearing assets, while pinching business profits and perhaps depressing spending to the point where economic expansion stops.

The hike in the prime rate, the first since a rise from 10.0 per cent to 10.5 per cent last November, responded to expectations of further Fed tightening, analysts said.

And these events occurred when a buoyant stock market was already overdue for a decline, they added.

"Stocks had a nice run and they were vulnerable," said Sinai.

Wall Street has rallied since the beginning of the new year to set a post-crash of 1987 high on the Dow Jones industrial average of 2,347.14 Tuesday, a gain of about 202 points since Jan. 3.

Outside the United States, brokerage analysts said they would be watching the Tokyo market. Its Nikkei average has been in record-breaking territory much of the year and closed Friday at a new all-time high of 32,131.99.

London has also been rallying after a sluggish 1988 and the FTSE 100-share index there is still up 263 points or 14.5 per cent on the year despite the fall last week.

The dollar is one wild card in the pack.

It has risen strongly as the relatively high U.S. interest rates attract funds to the United States.

White House wants Baker to sell Chemical Bank stock

WASHINGTON (R) — The top White House ethics adviser is pressing Secretary of State James Baker to sell his holdings in a major New York bank company but Baker is resisting, an administration source has said.

According to the source, who asked not to be identified, White House counsel Boyden Gray told Baker he should divest his holdings in Chemical New York Corp, a bank holding company that has \$4.5 billion in loans to Third World countries.

Gray first raised his concerns during the transition period after the Nov. 8 election. The counsel, who reluctantly agreed to put his own financial holdings in a trust outside his control last week, said Baker should sell the stock to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

While serving as treasury secretary for President Reagan, Baker held onto the stock and excused himself from matters affecting Chemical Bank. The source said Baker apparently hopes to follow that same practice at the State Department.

In a financial disclosure statement, Baker said his stock in Chemical is worth in excess of \$250,000. No more precise disclosure is required.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters that Baker's lawyers were reviewing the matter. He did not elaborate.

There is concern at the White House that allowing Baker, a close friend of Bush, to retain the stock might look like favouritism at a time the president is preaching high ethics in government and calling on officials to avoid even the perception of conflict of interest.

The Washington Post reported Friday that Gray has toughened

his position in recent days after first telling Baker he could keep the stock and asking Bush to grant a waiver to normal conflict-of-interest rules.

State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer told the Post that Gray was initially inclined to let Baker keep the stock, but has since "changed his mind."

The Post also said that Baker, in a memo to senior State Department officials Jan. 25, said he would excuse himself from any matters involving his former law firm or in which he, his wife, or daughter had a financial interest.

He supplied his deputies with a list of his holdings which, along with the Chemical stock, included stock in two other banks, five oil companies, 13 barge or towboat partnerships that carry oil and gas, and working interests in several oil wells.

Izvestia publishes draft law to give consumers protection

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A draft law published Saturday gives the often beleaguered Soviet consumer some new rights in the marketplace, including the power to get defective merchandise repaired or replaced at no cost.

Legal protection for consumers has been so ineffective in the Soviet Union that many national newspapers last year reported the "sensational" case of Muscovite Mikhail Lukhov's successful battle in court to get his money refunded for a faulty tape recorder, the TASS news agency said.

"People in the USSR have long been awaiting the appearance of this legal act," TASS said in a commentary on the new law.

The draft legislation, published in the government daily Izvestia, says that non-Soviet enterprises and citizens who sell products of "low quality" will bear legal responsibility.

Defective goods must be exchanged or the purchase price refunded, unless additional legislation provides some other remedy, the draft law stipulates.

Low-quality merchandise can be returned from a firm if a court decision on the proposed law, which is submitted for national consideration by the Supreme Soviet, the governing body.

Defects in meeting contracts for supplying goods or services, a chronic problem in the Soviet economy, can result in fines that the defendant supplier must pay to the consumer, according to the law.

The consumer protection law is one of a series of measures announced under President Mikhail Gorbachev to increase

both the quantity and quality of goods available to Soviets.

"It is common knowledge that more footwear is produced in the USSR than, say, in the United States," TASS said. "But demand is not satisfied because it is of poor quality and not fashionable."

Because the importance of competition was traditionally scoffed at, many Soviet factories "have monopolised the output of this or that product, and dictate their terms to the consumer," TASS said.

It said the new law would change that by involving consumers, along with designers, production personnel, and government authorities, in setting standards for goods. Independent consumer associations are also authorised under the law.

The draft legislation, which was signed by Gorbachev, is to be discussed nationally and presented along with citizens' recommendations to the Supreme Soviet Parliament for consideration by April 15, according to Izvestia.

gant promises" of reform.

"The next few years will be characterised by stagnation or low growth... combined with significant but peripheral reforms and widespread discontent," it said.

Ellman singled out for praise the creation of cooperatives which he predicted would boost agricultural production and provide "the stimulus of competition to the state sector."

But he added that state bureaucracy, rather than market forces, would still have the most influence on the Soviet economy and would slow the pace of reform.

"There is a stark contrast between all the talk about radical reform and the rather limited economic reforms actually implemented, especially in the crucial state industrial sector," his report said.

Gorbachev hoped to transform the Soviet Union into an advanced and innovative industrial state, but the report said he was being hampered by what it called the meagre outputs of Soviet science.

"This... is caused by poor decision-making processes, perverse personnel policies, disastrous information policies and an ineffective system for financing scientific research," it said, adding: "Perestroika (restructuring) has so far made little contribution to eliminating these problems."

But it said research funds could be increased through a continued decline in defence spending as a result of arms reduction deals with the United States. It said significant resources could be transferred to the civilian sector by 1990.

Report forecasts unrest

Meanwhile, a study commissioned by the Economist Intelligence Unit, an independent, London-based economic research group, said that the Soviet Union faces years of slow growth despite Gorbachev's economic reforms.

Written by Professor Michael Ellman of the University of Amsterdam, the report also forecast possible civil unrest stemming from the failure of authorities to realise what it called "extrava-

Hard times hit 'Chicken Street'

KABUL (R) — Goods from almost anywhere can still be found in Kabul's "Chicken Street" but business is slack and the price of some of the world's cheapest caviar is rising fast.

Chicken Street (Kucheh Margha) has fallen on hard times with the withdrawal of Soviet troops who used to flock there to shop protected by armoured personnel carriers stationed at either end of the street.

Once the haunt of bargain-hunting Western hippies in more peaceful times, Chicken Street no longer even has a corps of affluent foreigners to rely on for trade now that most resident foreign diplomats and aid personnel have left the country.

Even wealthier Afghans are tightening their belts, against more austere times ahead, while ordinary people limit their purchases to the bare essentials — which are the items in shortest supply.

While people queue for hours for bread and oil in sub-freezing temperatures, and hundreds of

A good bottle of Stolichnaya goes for 1,100 Afghanis (\$5) and Soviet Sparkling wine costs only a little more.

In the main bazaar down by the Kabul river where less wealthy Afghans shop the range is still fairly cosmopolitan.

Next to a cart overflowing with dripping sheep's heads, traders sell Thai and West German batteries. Elsewhere are Chinese toilet paper, Indian razor blades, British soap and cheap costume jewellery from Hong Kong.

"Afghanistan is a crossroads between East and West," said a carpet seller, proud that his city managed to maintain its trading tradition despite a long-running civil war.

However, shopkeepers now have time to drink tea with each other or stand at their doorways calling out to the few likely customers walking down the street.

The shopkeepers are unwilling to grumble openly.

"I don't want to talk about politics, you don't know who might be listening, I'll tell you all about carpets," said one trader.

British cast shadow over idea of European monetary union

LONDON (R) — The vision of a common European currency appears to be receding into the distant future as Britain steps up a campaign against sweeping economic and monetary union in the 12-nation European Community (EC).

European Commission President Jacques Delors faces an uphill task to devise a blueprint for monetary cooperation acceptable to Community leaders at their June summit in Madrid.

"The British have made it abundantly clear that European monetary union is out, they just don't want any grandiose plan," said John Bell, chief economist at British merchant (investment) bank Morgan Grenfell.

The assault was launched by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in a speech in Bruges, Belgium, in September and was followed last month by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson who said monetary union was divisive and not on his agenda.

Last week Bank of England Governor Robin Leigh-Pemberton, one of a 17-strong committee headed by Delors which is charged with studying "concrete steps" towards union, joined the fray.

"Our work may be thought premature," he told bankers.

The Delors committee, of the 12 EC central bank governors and experts, has begun drafting its final report to deliver to finance ministers in May. But its chances of staying out of the political crossfire until then have faded.

Economists believe Britain, backed tacitly by West Germany, wants to force the Delors committee to water down proposals for monetary union which, in their most extreme form, would lead to a single European currency and a European central bank.

Stung by British criticism that monetary union would be an obstacle to the immediate goal of creating a single Community market by 1992, Delors attempted to calm the debate.

"In such an atmosphere, it is not possible to conduct a fruitful dialogue," he told the Independent newspaper.

But Delors, committed to the goal of monetary union, enjoys considerable backing from France, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

French Prime Minister Michel Rocard said in London after meeting Thatcher Wednesday: "It is difficult to imagine a truly unified market without a common currency. Even if this objective cannot be achieved by 1993, it is important to set in motion a dynamic process leading towards monetary union."

The Delors team has been studying a model floated last year by economist professor Niels Thygesen who suggests a European monetary policy committee of central bank officials.

But economists believe Thygesen's model is unacceptable to West Germany or Britain because it implies a loss of sovereignty and key decisions would be subject to vote by other states.

"The idea that the Bundesbank is going to be told what to do by the French central bank is inconceivable," said Bell.

Even relatively small steps on the road to 1992 such as the removal of capital controls, also a precondition for monetary union, have become embroiled in political controversy.

The European Commission recently proposed a minimum 15 per cent withholding tax on most investment income of Community residents. But that drew strong objections from Luxembourg, long a tax haven, and set the scene for an acrimonious meeting of finance ministers in Brussels Monday.

Morgan Grenfell's Bell said: "The difficulties in reaching European monetary union are enormous."

Markets like governments to be strict with inflation but they fret if the interest rate medicine is too strong.

High rates tend to syphon money out of stocks to interest-bearing assets, while pinching business profits and perhaps depressing spending to the point where economic expansion stops.

World Bank to lend private Hungarian firms

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank will lend Hungary \$140 million, with at least \$15 million to go towards helping small privately-owned enterprises, the bank has announced.

Among the communist-ruled countries of Eastern Europe, Hungary has advanced furthest in encouraging private business. Some of its arrangements have served as a model for changes in the Soviet Union.

The World Bank also announced a loan of \$61 million to China for help in building a bridge and highway between Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi province in southeastern China, and the port of Jiujiang. This loan is for 35 years, at 7.5 of one per cent interest.

The World Bank is owned by 151 countries, not including the Soviets, with the U.S. government holding the largest number of shares. Some members of Congress have criticised the bank for its loans to member countries under communist rule.

A statement by the bank said the loan is part of a broader programme of restructuring Hungarian industry to orient it more toward the market. Money will be lent to support producers of goods that can be exported to countries paying in U.S. dollars and other hard currencies.

"The project will improve Hungary's trade balance and generate more than \$100 million a year in convertible-currency revenues," said Oscar De Bruyn Kops, an industrial specialist at the bank.

He said two previous loans to Hungary paved the way for orienting Hungarian firms more toward making profits, and for the development of small and private firms.

This one will be channelled through the government's National Bank of Hungary, which will lend it on by way of the country's government-owned commercial banking system.

Some commercial banks in Hungary are now joint ventures with private banks from neighbouring Austria and other countries.

The National Bank of Hungary will pay the World Bank's variable interest rate, now 7.65 per cent a year. The loan is repayable in 15 years, but for the first five years only interest need be paid.

To qualify for individual loans, firms must have fewer than 60 employees and be trying to make a profit. Small firms in Hungary may be privately owned, state-owned or cooperative. Hungarian law limits to 500 the number of employees that a private company can hire.

Economists: New taxes to increase Japan's luxury imports, consumption

TOKYO (AP) — New tax laws to take effect April 1 will likely boost sales of automobiles, liquor, jewelry and high-tech electronics — good news for companies exporting to Japan.

Economists say that while the mainstay of the tax reform, a three per cent sales tax, will raise many prices in this nation, the overall impact on the Japanese economy will be positive.

The new laws, the first major overhaul of Japan's tax system since 1949, will reduce income, residential, corporate and inheritance taxes by 5.8 trillion yen (\$45 billion) in fiscal 1989, which begins April 1.

In line with government policy, the reform will encourage consumption of luxury products through the elimination of a variety of special taxes on cars, liquor, jewelry, golf equipment and electronics. This step is expected to inject an additional 3.4 trillion yen (\$26.4 billion) into Japan's robust economy in fiscal 1989.

Japan's 40-year-old tax structure no longer suited the needs of an affluent, aging society. Shigeo Ohara, director of the finance ministry's research division, has said.

The system, drafted by U.S. occupation authorities while Japan was rebuilding after its defeat in World War II, slapped luxury taxes on liquor, tobacco, furs, jewelry, large appliances and other items.

"Now, it's hard to decide what goods are luxury items," Ohara said.

Retailers will see sales increase

when taxes as high as 23 per cent are replaced by the three per cent sales tax, says Richard Koo, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute.

"It's a positive step in encouraging consumption... it should make a big difference," Koo said.

The reform also is intended to help cut Japan's trade surplus and respond to foreign criticism that taxes on high-quality liquor and other goods boosted import prices, Ohara said.

The finance ministry estimates that the new tax laws alone, by slashing prices on luxury imports, will cut Japan's current account surplus by \$2 billion in 1991, the year it chose for its analysis.

Overall, the tax reform is expected to boost Japan's real gross national product estimated at 370.3 trillion yen (\$2.87 trillion) in fiscal 1988, by about 0.2 per cent, the ministry says.

Although consumer prices are forecast to rise 1.2 per cent as a result of a new sales tax, the net decrease in taxes will total 2.6 trillion yen (\$20.2 billion). The sales tax will bring in revenues amounting to 3.2 trillion yen (\$24.8 billion) in fiscal 1989, it says.

However, some predict the government will quickly raise the sales tax rate from the initial three per cent, resulting in an

increase in total taxes.

The main goal of the reform, the government maintains, is to distribute the tax burden more equitably. The tax cuts favour middle-aged couples through special deductions for dependents aged 16 to 22.

"The middle-aged salary workers felt their tax burdens were heavy and unfair, given the high educational expenses for their children," Ohara said.

But critics say the new sales tax is a virtual sieve of loopholes that favours the rich while squeezing lower-income earners.

The new sales tax exempts all retailers with annual sales below 30 million yen (\$232,558), about a third of all Japanese businesses — a move that gained the tax's acceptance among the shopkeepers' associations that helped defeat earlier attempts at tax reform.

Land sales, sales of securities, insured medical costs and some educational costs are also exempt from the new tax.

A study by the Shinjomei Consumers' Cooperative Association, a Tokyo consumers' group, says that under the new tax laws, a four-member household with an annual income of 6.6 million yen (\$53,225) would pay 162,000 yen (\$1,256) less in income and residents' taxes but 62,000 yen (\$481) more in sales taxes, for a net decrease of 100,000 yen (\$775).

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Pound Sterling	938.8	948.5	Dutch guilder	254.6 256.5
Deutschemark	287.2	289.5	Swedish crown	94.8 95.5
Swiss franc	320.0	324.0	Italian Lira (for 100)	137.2 137.8

YACHTING

Thursday's Child aims for 135-year-old record

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The racing sloop Thursday's Child, sailed north against strong headwinds, should arrive in San Francisco by night by eight days, said a spokesman Saturday.

"It will be the early morning," said Sylvia Wilkerson, a shore-based spokeswoman for the three-man crew. "They just want to get in."

Since Nov. 23, the 10-tonne racing yacht has logged some 21,139 km in a voyage around the Cape Horn off the tip of South America. The period included a stop at the Falkland Islands to make repairs after the boat collided with an unknown object.

In the past seven years, five other racing boats have been sunk rounding Cape Horn in futile attempts to beat the record set by the clipper ship Flying Cloud in 1854 — New York to San Francisco in 89 days, 8 hours.

At 7:45 a.m. (1545 GMT) Saturday, Thursday's Child was off Point San 193 km south of San Francisco, beating into 17- to 20-knot (roughly 32 to 37 km per hour) wind and tacking constantly, Wilkerson said.

The crew — skipper-owner Warren Luhrs, 44, Courtney Hazleton, 32, and Lars Bergstrom, 54, who helped design the high-tech vessel — were in for a welcome from hundreds of boats at the finish under San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

The news earlier Saturday was not so good. Shifting winds had dropped to a slight breeze overnight as the boat struggled to progress north. At midnight, the boat was making only 7 1/2 knots (nautical miles per hour).

Although tired from the constant tacking, which requires the crew to leap from one side of the cockpit to the other to manipulate the sail as the boat zigzags northward, the crew was well, Wilkerson said.

Hazleton, talking over the radio one day last week, called the adventure "some of the finest sailing I ever had. I would do it again at the drop of a hat."

The clipper Flying Cloud, a merchantman that also ferried gold rush adventurers to San Francisco, could lay on 35 sails on its tall masts. It was the fastest of thousands of sailing clippers that raced each other across the Atlantic and Pacific.

Ironically, the ship's record-setting performance in 1854 coincided with the beginning of the end of this country's sailing commerce. In that year, U.S. shipbuilders quit clipper construction because freight rates had dropped and the oak that went into the ships became too expensive.

Steam sealed the doom of the Clippers. And the Rocks off St. Johns, Newfoundland, did likewise to the Flying Cloud in 1874. Nothing is left of it.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Marseille continues climb up French league

PARIS (R) — Marseille continued their climb up the French first division Saturday with a 3-1 win over Strasbourg to close the gap on league leaders Paris St. Germain who were surprisingly held to a draw at home by Toulon. The southern team triumphed easily over Strasbourg, trailing in second last place in the division, thanks to two goals by West German international Klaus Allofs and another by Jean-Pierre Papin, his 16th of the season. Paris St. Germain, now with 51 points and only two ahead of Marseille, played a lack-lustre goalless draw against Toulon, another disappointing result for the league leaders who lost to Sochaux last week.

Hlasek to face Jarryd in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM (R) — Number two seed Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland will meet seventh seeded Anders Jarryd of Sweden in the final of the Rotterdam Grand Prix tennis tournament Sunday after beating France's Yannick Noah 7-6, 6-2 Saturday. Hlasek had to struggle to take the first set on a 9-7 tie break, but then found his rhythm to dominate the number three seed in the second. Earlier Jarryd won his place in Sunday's final with an easy 6-2, 6-4 victory over sixth seeded Darren Cahill of Australia. Jarryd has beaten Hlasek five of the six times the two have met.

Frenchman wins WBC title

GRENOBLE, France (AP) — Rene Jacquot became the first Frenchman in 30 years to win a World Boxing championship as he won a unanimous decision over American Don Curry for the World Boxing Council super-welterweight title Saturday night. Curry had the early lead but inspired Jacquot, cheered on by a hometown crowd, turned the bout in his favor from the sixth round on in the scheduled 12-round fight. Judges Sid Nathan of Britain scored it 117-113, Justo Vasquez of Spain, 118-115 and Jesus Arias of Mexico, 118-116 in favor of Jacquot. It was the first defense of the WBC crown for Curry, who won it last July against Italian Gianfranco Rosi.

Thai retains strawweight title

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Napa Kiatwanchai floored John Anier of Indonesia three times in a 12-round bout Saturday and retained his World Boxing Council strawweight title by unanimous decision. Napa dominated every round of his first title defense, methodically stalking the dancing Indonesian into constant retreat and repeatedly stunning him with left and right hooks to the head. Most of Anier's falling blows missed their mark. "Attack, attack," the crowd roared to Napa during the bout at an open-air stadium in Korat, 210 kilometres northeast of Bangkok.

Mattar struggles to advance to semifinals

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Top-seeded Luiz Mattar of Brazil struggled to defeat Todd Witsken of the United States 7-5, 7-5 Saturday in the quarterfinals of the \$130,000 Chevrolet classic tennis tournament in the seaside resort of Guarujá. Mattar, a two-time winner of the classic, moved on to the semifinals by downing the 25-year-old U.S. player in a tight, 90-minute match.

New York Yankees boss heads radical change plan

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — George Steinbrenner, working secretly on his U.S. Olympic committee critique, says he has produced a plan to enhance America's winning prospects.

The wheeling-dealing owner of the New York Yankees baseball team was the butt of jokes last year at the winter Olympic games when the United States Olympic committee announced he would head a commission to review its performance.

"Some people poked fun at me, but that's OK," Steinbrenner said in New York, adding that his ideas would be proven with results. He prepared to deliver them the USOC's quadrennial meeting next weekend.

The report, he said, includes "very specific recommendations" after interviews with about 70 athletes, coaches, corporate sponsors, merchandisers and others, though he won't divulge details of the study.

Many Olympic figures, however, remain dubious, saying Steinbrenner failed to talk to key coaches and athletes with Olympic experience. Stan Huntsman, the men's head track coach at Seoul, and University of Texas colleague Terry Crawford, the 1988 women's head coach, were among those who said they weren't approached by Steinbrenner's Olympic overview commission.

The seven-member Olympic overview commission that Steinbrenner chaired was asked by USOC president Robert H. Helmick to evaluate the USOC's performance 10 years after the federal Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

That legislation chartered the USOC in its present form and gave it Olympic dominion over the bickering U.S. National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Amateur Athletic Union. Steinbrenner was to examine whether the USOC was meeting its congressional mandate to lead the development and training of Olympic athletes.

It was not designed to be a quick fix to vault the United States past the medal-leading Soviets and the no. 2 East Germans at the 1992 games. Nor was it an automatic reaction to some of the disappointments of last year.

Steinbrenner said the report won't mince words about how to support U.S. athletes to regain their former dominance, but wouldn't predict how long it might take to produce tangible results in the medal count.

"I've made too many mistakes in my life prejudging people and things," he said.

Gold at last for Schneider

VAIL, Colorado (R) — Swiss ski ace Vreni Schneider eclipsed her rivals to retain her giant slalom crown and clinch her first title of the Vail World Championships after she had been twice denied a gold medal.

Olympic double champion Schneider proved her supreme class by posting the fastest time in each of the two runs down the Vail international slope to win by a huge margin of 1.13 seconds.

Carole Merle and Christelle Guignard swept through for silver and bronze, bringing France their

first medals in the penultimate race of the 15-day championships.

Schneider, silver medalist in both the combined and the slalom, had not been beaten in a giant slalom for over a year and made clear she was in a mood to end that proud sequence when she built up a lead of 0.51 seconds over nearest rival Merle on the first run.

Guignard, slalom silver medalist in the 1985 world championships, produced an excellent second run when she pulled up

from ninth after the first leg to third overall with a second leg time nobody but Schneider could match.

The track, a hard-packed combination of artificial and new snow, has very slick on the steep parts and spelled doom for American combined gold medalist Tamara McKinney, who crashed out early in the first leg.

"This is a great win for me. I put a lot of pressure on myself. I never gave so much in a race," Schneider said.

Chess: Status up, champion down

GENEVA (AP) — The question is as old as the modern Olympic games: is chess a sport?

There is not likely to be a definitive answer, though there is the often-cited definition that the "game of the Kings" combines sport, art and science.

Florencio Campomanes, president of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), hopes that one day the sport component will make chess part of the Olympic games.

Players currently have their own chess Olympiad, a team contest that is held every two years, and the individual world championships.

But Campomanes made plain in a telephone interview with the Associated Press that he also wants champion players to get a grab at "real" Olympic gold.

In what was described as a first step, he raised the question during a visit this week to the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee, where he had a one-hour talk with IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Both organizations are based in Switzerland, the IOC in Lausanne and FIDE in Lucerne.

Decades ago, FIDE had close links with the IOC "and many FIDE member federations are quite anxious to have this relationship renewed," Campomanes said.

Recently, there has been a growing trend of national chess federations joining their countries' national Olympic committees, he said.

His talk with Samaranch Wednesday focused on "possibilities for future collaboration between the two organizations," an IOC press release said. Campomanes said he had a "very positive talk" but stressed that Samaranch did not commit himself in any way.

He said one possibility for strengthening ties could be an exhibition tournament at the 1992 summer Olympics in Barcelona.

Campomanes, a Philippine national, said Barcelona would be a fitting site "because it is a Catalan city and every full-blooded Catalan plays chess."

And he noted, "President Samaranch is a Catalan."

Kasparov attacked

MOSCOW (R) — World Chess Champion Gary Kasparov, renowned for his flamboyant lifestyle and outspoken opinions, was sharply attacked Saturday in an open letter published in the leading Soviet sports publications.

The letter, on the front page of the daily Sovetskoy Sport, accused Kasparov of caring not for sport but only for himself and said his ideas were detrimental to the entire sports movement in the Soviet Union.

The four signatories of the letter included Olympic champion pole vaulter Sergei Buhka and Alexei Kolesov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Sports committee.

They took him to task in particular over a recent interview in which he attacked the sports committee for taking the lion's share of payments to Soviet sportsmen abroad and demanded professionalism in all sports.

"Unfortunately, we are forced to say that Kasparov does not care for sport, but only for himself in sport, and at times attacks towards his fellow sportsmen with contempt," the letter said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMER SHARIF
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IMPALED ON 'THE FORK'

North-South vulnerable, West deals.

NORTH
♠ J 4
♥ J 5 4 2
♦ Q 3 7 6
♣ 8 2

EAST
♠ A 6
♥ A Q J 9 7 3
♦ A J 10 9 5
♣ A 7 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

The bidding: King of ♣, Cardinal Morton, chancellor of the University of Chicago, had a very simple method for determining how high "mischances" should be taxed. If they lived lavishly, they obviously could afford to be assessed heavily. If they lived frugally, they had to have huge savings, and again could afford a high levy. In bridge, a Morton's Fork Coup presents a defender with a Hobson's Choice. Regardless of which play he chooses, he loses.

The bidding on this hand from a world team championship some years ago was straightforward. South needed little from his partner to make game, so he simply hid it right away.

West led the king of hearts, and declarer paused to consult his tricks. Since both minor suits were rated to be with West, the only sure tricks were seven trumps and a diamond. If East held the queen of clubs, a finesse in that suit would yield a ninth trick. A club ruff would have to be the "mischance" trick.

However, if declarer crossed to the jack of trumps to take the finesse, West would have only to return a trump when in with the ace of clubs to stop that ruff. The way out of the impasse was simple, yet elegant. Declarer ruffed the opening heart lead and led a low diamond.

West was impaled on Morton's Fork no matter what he did. If he rose with the ace, declarer would have two diamond tricks and would not need a club ruff. If he ducked, the diamond queen would be the entry to dummy for the club finesse. After West won the ace of clubs, his shift to trumps would come too late. Declarer would win, cash the king of clubs and ruff a club. That meant ten tricks either way.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a gracious day that lends itself to making or extending relationships. Communications will be trivial yet filled with humor, jokes and happy talk.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Is life moving too slowly? You may feel unsatisfied and bored when the merry-go-round of life is not turning fast enough.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Thank a friend with a personal call or visit. Play your hunches today as luck and good timing can be allied to bring success.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Stay with a project you are planning to dump. Reach out for new friends and let those who pretend to be friends fade into the background.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) If you feel lucky, it is because of your own confidence. Trust your own instincts. A new acquaintance adds sparkle.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Talents that have been moving slowly may be heading into a creative vacuum. Bring variety and change to favorite projects to avoid boredom.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 23) Your companion would appreciate some solitude with you. Greater income will bring an active social cycle to your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Your home and a companion could use some uplifting and added excitement. Cabin fever can bring out the worst in anyone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Glamorous connections may bring beautiful people into your life. Added physical energy can be used for extending personal pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your patience may be at stake in dealing with a co-worker who refuses to be compromising. Believe in what you do and stay confident.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A give and take attitude will avoid a clash that will not be beneficial. Meet with an old friend for a colorful evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A legal matter may surface that needs immediate attention. Proceed with new plans. Communication skills are highlighted.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Pursue your own personal interests and avoid catering to everyone else's whims. This is the key to clearing up current financial problems.

THE Daily Crossword by Roger Coburn

ACROSS

- Gauche
- Sassy
- Donna
- Armado
- Vice
- Leaf
- Overlapped
- sewing
- Clear
- Large deer
- Walk
- "Medigan"
- Pub missile
- Exterior
- USA word
- abbr.
- Certain
- bill
- Quadrilateral
- Bear homes
- Fragrance
- Phn
- Sorcery
- Secular
- Legendary
- bird
- Footless
- Gar
- Extant
- Noose
- In that case
- Youth
- Flow
- Kind of tide

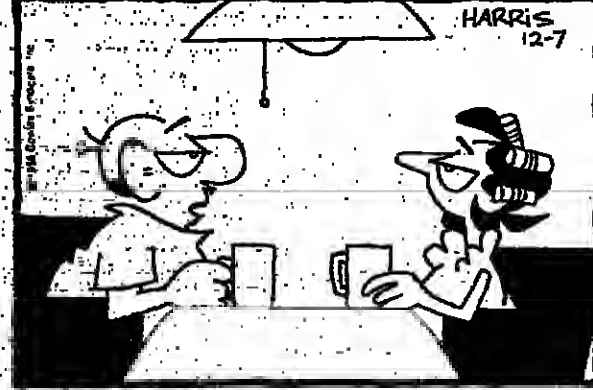
DOWN

- Infant
- Gem
- Need
- Cheney
- Jeal
- Firecracker
- Banish
- Lumpy
- RM's gift
- Stimulating
- Amerind
- Highway to
- Roma
- Singer
- Centred
- Astronaut
- Alan
- Stone chip
- WWII craft
- Oppressed
- "— and a
- peculiar
- grove"
- Rock debris
- Shorn
- "He acts
- being —
- ages"
- (Shakespeare)
- Actor
- Villain
- 30 Indians
- Entrance
- Mud
- Indonesian
- Island
- Pool
- Comedy
- Basile
- Twisted
- Skateboard
- group
- Humorous
- Ren Howard
- role
- Leak out
- slowly
- Bound
- Prevalent
- Gr. peak
- Dice
- Nav. off.
- Flipper

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. GARDEN, 2. BIRD, 3. FISH, 4. INSECT, 5. PLANT, 6. ANIMAL, 7. MINERAL, 8. METAL, 9. CRYSTAL, 10. LIQUID, 11. GAS, 12. SOLID, 13. PLASMA, 14. RADIATION, 15. SOUND, 16. HEAT, 17. LIGHT, 18. ELECTRICITY, 19. MAGNETISM, 20. GRAVITY, 21. ATOM, 22. MOLECULE, 23. CELL, 24. ORGAN, 25. SYSTEM, 26. BODY, 27. MIND, 28. SOUL, 29. SPIRIT, 30. GOD, 31. DEVIL, 32. ANGEL, 33. DEMON, 34. FAIRY, 35. GHOST, 36. WITCH, 37. MAGIC, 38. SPELL, 39. CURE, 40. REMEDY, 41. DRUG, 42. POISON, 43. WEAPON, 44. TOOL, 45. INSTRUMENT, 46. MACHINE, 47. VEHICLE, 48. SHIP, 49. AIRCRAFT, 50. SPACECRAFT, 51. ROCKET, 52. MISSILE, 53. BOMB, 54. GRENADE, 55. TANK, 56. CANNON, 57. GUN, 58. PISTOL, 59. RIFLE, 60. SWORD, 61. DAGGER, 62. KNIFE, 63. HAMMER, 64. AXE, 65. PICKAX, 66. SHovel, 67. BROOM, 68. MOP, 69. RAG, 70. TOWEL, 71. SHIRT, 72. PANTS, 73. SKIRT, 74. DRESS, 75. COAT, 76. JACKET, 77. GLOVE, 78. SHOE, 79. HAT, 80. SCARF, 81. TIE, 82. CUFFLINK, 83. BELT, 84. BRACELET, 85. RING, 86. EARRING, 87. NECKTIE, 88. SHOELACE, 89. ZIPPER, 90. BUTTON, 91. SLEEVE, 92. COLLAR, 93. CUFF, 94. WRISTBAND, 95. ANKLEBAND, 96. SHOELACE, 97. ZIPPER, 98. BUTTON, 99. SLEEVE, 100. COLLAR.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I don't rise at 6:00 AM to go jogging anymore. The squirrels started getting up early to laugh at me."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hand Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ANGLD
TIDEF
BELMIN
SWORDY

WHAT A PERSON WHO'S ALWAYS KICKING SELDOM HAS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A C O O L TO (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: UNCAP TRACT FRIGID IODINE.
Answer: What many people start out on, right after they return home from a vacation — AN EGO TRIP

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Tamils blamed for massacre of 36

Pre-poll outburst of violence claims 55 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — Ethnic and political violence reached a crescendo in this once idyllic island nation Sunday when at least 55 people were killed on the last day of campaigning before Feb. 15 elections.

The victims included 36 Sinhalese villagers killed late Saturday in a remote central Sri Lankan village, military officials said. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful Tamil guerrilla group, were blamed by the Foreign Ministry but denied responsibility.

Elsewhere, 19 other people were killed as violence escalated with the approach of Wednesday's parliamentary election. One of the victims was an opposition party candidate, the 14th would-be legislator to die since campaigning started five weeks ago.

Officials blamed militant Sinhalese for the killings, including the slaying of the candidate. More than 1,000 people have been killed by militants, both Tamil and Sinhalese, since nominations for elections began Jan. 6.

"It is an unprecedented situation of violence," said Elmo Gnanaratne, a senior government official. "It is the worst and bloodiest election campaign in Sri Lanka's history."

The elections Feb. 15 will be the first parliamentary elections in the country since 1977.

The normal term of parliament in Sri Lanka is six years, but the 1977 legislation was extended for

an extra six-year term by a referendum held in 1983.

Campaigning for the polls ends at midnight (1830 GMT) Sunday. Most of the 1,400 candidates for the 225 parliamentary seats were addressing campaign meetings and making last-minute appeals for votes.

In the eastern town of Sammanthurai, six supporters of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party were shot and killed by unknown attackers, military officials said.

Military officials in Colombo said the victims of the attack on Dutuwewa included 20 children and five women. At least four other people were wounded but managed to flee into the thick undergrowth, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The police officer, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said he was one of the first to reach the village and found bodies lying inside the mud and that huts.

"The rebels attacked a cluster of houses close to the jungle," he said. "Other villagers heard shooting and screams but were too frightened to come out."

Dutuwewa is about 100 kilometres northeast of Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka.

The village, reachable only by winding paths hacked through the marshy jungle, is in north central province, an area dominated by Sinhalese, but lies just outside eastern province, a main area of operations by Tamil separatists fighting for an independent homeland.

A Foreign Ministry official in Colombo blamed the mass killings in the jungle village on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful of the Tamil guerrilla groups that have been waging a bloody independence campaign since 1983.

The Tigers issued a statement denying responsibility for the attack.

More than 8,500 people have died in the ethnic violence as the minority Tamils have stepped up their attacks on the Sinhalese majority and Sinhalese-dominated government.

"It is all part of the overall plan to rid eastern province and nearby areas of Sinhalese," said the Foreign Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Campaigning from home

The violence has forced opposition candidates to campaign from their homes.

"Because of the attacks, we find it difficult to conduct street campaigns," said Freedom Party candidate Chulapathindra Dahanayake after meeting supporters in Matara, 160 kilometres south of Colombo.

NEW DELHI (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke ended a visit to India Sunday without narrowing differences between the two countries on nuclear disarmament and a naval buildup in the Indian Ocean.

Hawke left for Australia at midday after completing a tour that also took him to South Korea, Thailand and Pakistan.

The differences came out in the open Friday when Hawke described India as the only non-nuclear weapons producing country to have demonstrated a nuclear explosive capability.

"I frankly wish that capability had not been developed,"

Hawke said in a speech, while urging India to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

India carried out a nuclear test in 1974, but said it was for peaceful purposes. It also refuses to sign the NPT on the grounds that it discriminates against some countries.

"He (Hawke) was reflecting a growing apprehension in the West of nuclear proliferation in South Asia," said Bhabeni Sen Gupta of New Delhi's Independent Centre for Policy Research.

Pakistan said last week that it had reached the threshold of

nuclear weapons producing capability, but decided against it.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said after Hawke's speech India and Australia had reached a new understanding during the four-day visit, but seemed to have made few concessions during extensive talks with the Australian premier.

On the Indian Ocean, Gandhi made an unexpectedly strong defence of India's growing naval presence, saying its exclusive economic zone would be defended at all costs.

"Confronted with the growing presence of outside naval forces in the Indian Ocean, we

are left with no alternative but to strengthen our naval defences," Gandhi said in a speech.

Gupta said Gandhi's speech reflected India's romantic notions about naval power and its unconcern for the strategic interests of Australia in the Indian Ocean.

"As far as the Indian Ocean is concerned, India has no strategic relationship with Australia. So Hawke had to fail in narrowing differences on the issue with India," Gupta said.

Western diplomatic sources said the visit was a success only from an economic point of view.

Baker downplays possible missile dispute with Kohl

LONDON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, on his first foreign trip, played down the possibility of a dispute with West Germany over modernising North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) short-range nuclear missiles.

Commenting on an interview in which Chancellor Helmut Kohl suggested a decision on the politically charged issue could be postponed for two years, Baker said: "We have to see exactly what was meant by the statement."

"I think that perhaps you could put a different interpretation on it," he told reporters Saturday as he flew from Canada to Iceland on an eight-day tour of NATO capitals.

He later landed in London where he will meet Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe

Sunday.

Baker said he did not want to react to the idea of postponing a missile decision until he talks with Kohl in Bonn Monday night.

But he insisted the chancellor's remarks do not necessarily reflect a difference of opinion because "it depends on what he meant by the term modernisation."

A new weapon goes through various stages before it is deployed and Baker seemed intent on preserving room for compromise with Kohl.

Kohl discussed the missile in an interview Friday with the London-based Financial Times newspaper.

The 88 U.S. Lance missiles are politically sensitive because most are based in West Germany.

Many Germans fear their country will be the initial battlefield in an East-West conflict and have

urged a positive NATO response to unilateral force cuts announced by the Warsaw Pact.

The United States and Britain have urged a quick decision on the Lance, which has a range of 115 kilometres, and which they want updated as a sign of NATO's continued commitment to a strong defence.

Talking with reporters aboard his air force jet, Baker stressed the need for consultation and collective action.

One controversial topic expected to receive attention is lifting trade sanctions against the Soviet Union that were imposed when Moscow invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

Europeans have pushed Washington to lift the curbs since Soviet troops are withdrawing from Afghanistan.

Hungary defuses 1956 row, supports multi-party system

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary's ruling communists have defused a major leadership row and have voted to back the re-introduction of a multi-party system they repressed 40 years ago.

The Central Committee decided it imagines the development of political pluralism in a multi-party system," party leader Károly Grosz said after a critical two-day meeting of the committee.

He said in an interview that a "competitive" multi-party system had more chance of preventing political errors than a single-party system.

The crisis erupted after senior Politburo reformer Imre Pozsgay questioned a party line that had stood for three decades by calling the 1956 rebellion, crushed by Soviet tanks, a popular uprising.

Legislation is already being introduced that would change the power structure in force since the communists took over in Hungary shortly after World War II.

The Central Committee decided Pozsgay's remark was "premature," Grosz said.

But he said the committee did not choose between calling the 1956 events a popular uprising or a "counter-revolution."

"The large majority of the Central Committee voted that we had to revert to the basic judgment formed after 1956 which has been distorted in the past 30 years," Grosz said.

An early party analysis listed among the factors that led to the rebellion errors by the country's Stalinist leadership, counter-revolutionary trends and international imperialism.

After the 1958 execution of Imre Nagy, installed as premier by popular demand on the second day of the rebellion, the events began to be referred to only as a counter-revolution.

Pozsgay's statement on 1956, based on a party committee study but made without consulting the Politburo, raised awkward questions about the Soviet invasion and role of Janos Kadar, who was installed by the Russians after deserting Nagy. Kadar was himself ousted as leader last May.

Pozsgay's position in the supreme 11-member Politburo appeared at risk after Grosz, complaining of indiscipline, said political differences endangered efficient leadership and invited the Central Committee to consider changing personnel.

Food safety worries Britons

LONDON (AP) — Food-poisoning scares involving chicken, eggs, butter and popular pre-cooked dinners have left millions of Britons baffled and preoccupied over what they can and cannot eat.

Since December, when Junior Health Minister Edwina Currie said most of Britain's egg production was infected with salmonella, the debate over the health risk from eating various foods has gained momentum.

Public anxiety has been aroused partly by news media attention and front-page headlines like "Cheese Can Kill Your Baby" in Saturday's four-million circulation tabloid The Sun, and partly by conflicting data from government ministers, industry spokesmen and scientists.

"The average consumer is punch-drunk with warnings and statistics — many of which seem contradictory," the normally pro-government Daily Express said in an editorial Saturday.

This weekend, Britons faced a

triple food scare: salmonella-infected chickens and eggs, mercury-contaminated butter and soft cheeses contaminated with listeria — a bacteria that can cause respiratory illness — pre-cooked meals, fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Department of Health Saturday denied a front-page story in the liberal Guardian newspaper that claimed the government was delaying publication of a report into another scare — the possibility that meat products from cattle infected with a brain virus could trigger the same disease in humans. The report would be published soon, the government said, and there was no health risk because milk and meat from such animals was being destroyed.

With public concern mounting, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government announced Friday that a committee of government and independent experts headed by an independent scientist would investi-

gate all aspects of food safety.

The Agriculture Department ordered farmers to slaughter all salmonella-infected chicken flocks. The Department of Health has estimated there are between 200,000 and 2.2 million cases of salmonella poisoning in Britain every year. The disease can be fatal to the elderly and very young.

The government's chief medical officer, Sir Donald Acheson, warned pregnant women against eating soft cheeses, which could be contaminated by listeria bacteria, and urged that pre-cooked meals be re-heated and fruits and vegetables washed to prevent listeria contamination. He said listeria infections killed 50 people in England and Wales last year and led to miscarriages in 11 pregnancies.

A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman, unidentified in keeping with British practice, said later that a ban would be imposed on unpasteurised milk, but he did not specify when or how.

Managua to propose poll monitoring plan

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua will propose at a Central American summit next week that elections be monitored by international observers. President Daniel Ortega said Saturday.

Saying the region's foreign ministers had failed to agree on monitoring elections in Central America, Ortega said Nicaragua would present a new proposal in El Salvador.

"Nicaragua will put forward a proposal for elections to be verified by observers from the United Nations, the Organisation of American States (OAS) and other countries," Ortega told a news conference.

Leaders of the five Central American nations met in El Salvador Monday to try to revive the

18-month-old Esquipulas Peace Plan for Central America.

The leaders have sought ways to verify the accord, which calls for an end to regional wars and greater democracy.

Ortega said he hoped a multinational observer force set up to monitor border violations in the region would be in place within two to three months if the plan is ratified at the meetings.

Central American Foreign Ministers agreed to the plan this week in New York.

Ortega also said the U.S. Congress should help fund the repatriation of U.S.-backed contra rebels based in Honduras.

"The rebels' eight-year-old war against Nicaragua's leftist government has virtually ground to a



Daniel Ortega

halt since Congress cut off military aid a year ago.

Ortega said he hoped President Bush would respect decisions taken at the summit and support the peace plan.

"As for a direct dialogue, I hope a moment arrives in which there are conditions for Nicaragua and the United States to converse in a normal way," he said.

Illegal immigrants face caning in Singapore

By Ajoy Sen

SINGAPORE — As darkness falls, junkies ferry illegal immigrants, in search of attractive wages and a good life, to prosperous Singapore.

Many of the boats come from Johore Bahru in Malaysia and after a 20-minute journey they arrive on Singapore's deserted beaches, where trucks hired by labour contractors whisk the aliens away to building sites and ship repair yards.

Some of the labourers, lured by the prospect of earning up to 20 dollars (\$14) a day, smuggle themselves in boats of cars or come armed with forged work permits issued by syndicates for up to 1,000 dollars (\$500) a permit.

To stop the growing influx of immigrants, Singapore last month passed a law making foreigners who illegally enter the country or overstay beyond 90 days liable to three strokes

of the cane and three months in jail.

The Immigration Amendment Bill 1989 also threatens employers of illegal immigrants with up to two years in jail and a fine of 6,000 dollars (\$3,000).

Officials said factory owners, hit by an acute labour shortage, risked the sanctions to get needed workers from bogus employment agencies.

"We are in trouble," said a building contractor. "Our applications to hire foreign workers are rejected and there are not enough Singaporeans to do the work."

The foreign workers who come mainly from impoverished regions in Malaysia, Thailand, India and Bangladesh are hired with little questions asked and some employers even provide them with free board and lodging. Singapore, which annually draws more than four million

tourists, says it does not wish to see any more of the unwanted guests.

They posed a threat to society because they were not subjected to medical checks or official inquiries necessary to weed out known criminals, said senior Minister of State for Home Affairs Lee Boon Yang.

More than 4,000 illegal immigrants were arrested last year compared with 3,500 in 1987. Hundreds were detained last month.

Lawyers said the new law carried a reduced prison term to spare Singapore's jails, stretched to accommodate those already sentenced.

The government annually spends 9.4 million dollars (\$4.7 million) to keep more than 1,100 illegal immigrants in jail. They make up almost 17 per cent of the prison population. The old law prescribed a jail term of up to two years and a

fine of up to 3,000 Singapore dollars (\$2,500) for an illegal immigrant or his employer.

Caning was a more effective way to ease the problem, Lee said.

"We want to deliver a clear signal: Don't come here to try your luck at breaking our laws and don't come here to try your luck with our courts hoping that you could get off with a light sentence," he said.

The new law has been criticised in some quarters.

Caning is barbaric, one ruling-party politician said.

Other critics urged the government to take a more lenient view considering the illegal immigrants were mostly unemployed and poor people, and not criminals.

"They come here to work, not to rob or steal and are doing jobs which Singaporeans refuse to do," said opposition member of parliament Lee Siew Choh.



'Eccentrics keep society on its toes'

LONDON (R) — They may dress up as pink elephants or dwell in caves but Britain's eccentrics are happy and healthy and their wacky ways benefit society, a scientific study shows. The study, published Tuesday in the proceedings of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, examined the lifestyles of 150 self-confessed eccentrics who came forward in response to advertisements. "British eccentrics are alive and well and as eccentric as ever," said psychologist David Weeks of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, a co-author of the work. They included a man who raises money for charity by dressing as a pink elephant and abseiling down office towers and a dog lover, who appointed his Labrador a company director and printed canine business cards. Another lives in a cave which becomes submerged during high tide. "Eccentrics' thoughts and feelings share many similarities with those experienced by mystics, Zen Buddhists and artists. Time and space may seem suspended. There are dramatic oscillations of mood, followed by a revitalised purpose in life." And eccentricity appears to be good for you. "In terms of physical health, they are resilient, long-lived and require minimal medical attention," the study said. "Their obsessive preoccupations give their lives meaning and provide them with clear and specific goals." "It is coincidence that Britain has cornered the market in the eccentricity stakes, remains prodigiously innovative and that more than half of the new ideas adopted by manufacturers world-wide originate here," the study said. Or as one eccentric told the scientists: "Blessed are the cracked, for they shall let in the light."

Space imposter gets arrested

BOSTON (AP) — Robert Hunt scoured some kitchen tiles and told his wife they fell off the ill-fated Challenger space shuttle. That, police say, was just one prop in Hunt's pose as an astronaut during a period of make-believe that carried him through several states, speaking engagements and marriages. Now his wife is leaving him and he faces fraud and larceny charges for taking his make-believe too far. State police arrested Hunt Jan. 28 in Medford, a suburb of Boston. The 27-year-old plumber's son is accused of swindling his fourth wife and bride of five months, Ann Sweeney, of up to \$50,000 on her company-issued credit card without her knowledge and for taking \$4,000 from a family on the promise he could get their 18-year-old son out of the navy. On Jan. 6, calling himself marine Captain Robert J. Hunt, the fake astronaut spoke before a group called the Experimental Aircraft Association.

Broadcast from top, bottom of world

WASHINGTON (R) — Environmentalists said last week they planned a worldwide television broadcast next year from atop Mount Everest and from the bottom of the ocean to mark "Earth Day 20." The broadcast, set for April 22, 1990, is aimed at dramatizing dangers to the environment on the 20th anniversary of Earth Day. Organisers told a news conference. Scores of well-known entertainers, including Hollywood stars Elizabeth Taylor, Julie Andrews, Jack Lemmon and Jimmy Stewart, have agreed to help plan television specials for the anniversary, and a live concert from London, Los Angeles and Tokyo similar to the "Live Aid" performance for Ethiopian relief in 1986.

6 men bowl down 79,154 pins

DOVER, Delaware (AP) — Six men bowled a 24-hour marathon which saw them "knock down" 79,154 pins — and perhaps establish a new world record. The Guinness Book of World Records must still verify the accomplishment, but unofficially the bowlers broke the record of 76,384 pins set in Detroit, Michigan, last year, said Bob Garrett, one of the bowlers who played without stopping beginning at 3 p.m. Friday. But the group may never get to lay claim to it. A group of Australian bowlers reportedly rolled a combined 83,012 pins in a day, but that record also has not been confirmed by Guinness. Garrett said, Garrett, Craig Buchner, Bob Garrett, Steve Felt, Rick Ranshaw, Billy Wilson and Joe Faulkner bowled incessantly, rolling the balls down before the pins were completely set on the men averaged 139.8 pins per

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Koreas clash on border

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea accused South Korean troops of firing on North Korean policemen across the border Sunday. "It was entirely due to the patience and self-control of the civilian policemen of our side that this incident did not expand into an arms conflict between the two sides," Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said. The agency's report, monitored in Tokyo, did not mention any injuries or damage, but said the alleged firing "gravely threatened the safety of the civilian policemen of our side on routine duty at the post." The agency said several South Korean soldiers fired "many bullets" from automatic rifles at 1:52 p.m. (0452 GMT) Sunday from the Choson military police post in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) that divides the two nations. It said the post is west of Munsan, a city about 40 kilometres north of Seoul and about 16 kilometres south of the truce village of Panmunjom in the DMZ.

First woman bishop

BOSTON (R) — Barbara Harris became the first woman bishop of the Anglican Church Saturday in a consecration ceremony that brought both cheers and protests for the controversial activist priest. Harris, 58, became suffragan (assistant) bishop for the Diocese of Massachusetts, one of the nation's largest Episcopal dioceses, affiliated with the Anglican Church. She is also the first woman to become bishop in any of the three main branches of Christianity that regard bishops as direct successors to the apostles of Jesus Christ — Anglican, Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox. Fifty-five bishops crowded around the small black woman from Philadelphia as she stood at the altar inside a downtown convention centre, and most of the 8,500 people attending the ceremony applauded repeatedly.

U.N. chief to visit Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will visit Bangladesh early next month to see what help can be given to ease the low-lying country's perennial flood problems. Foreign Ministry sources said Sunday. More than 1,400 people died and 25 million were left homeless after four-fifths of the nation of 110 million people was submerged by monsoon floods last summer. Perez de Cuellar is expected to arrive in Dhaka March 3 and stay four days, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. They said he would meet President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and other government leaders and tour villages that were badly hit by the floods.

Craft docks with Mir

MOSCOW (R) — An unmanned spacecraft carrying supplies docked with the Soviet space station Mir Sunday, a day after blasting off from the

Baikonur Cosmodrome in Central Asia, TASS news agency reported. The spacecraft, Progress-40, used its autopilot to complete the docking. It brought food, water, scientific equipment and mail to Alexander Volkov and Sergei Krikalyov, who have been aboard the complex since November. Pravda reported Sunday that their mission had suffered a setback when a spacewalk and the proposed attachment of a second research module to the station had been postponed.

London wants new planes

LONDON (R) — Britain will press for changes in aircraft design at an air safety conference this week in Canada to make planes less vulnerable to terrorist bomb attacks. "We're going to press for sensible design changes to aircraft so they can be searched more easily when they're out of service and easily searched when they come into service — and there should be nowhere to hide a bomb," Transport Secretary Paul Channon told reporters. He said this was one of four main areas where Britain would press for action at a special ministerial meeting of the 33-nation International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in Montreal, beginning Wednesday. Britain and the United States requested the meeting after the Lockerbie air disaster in December when a bomb ripped apart a Pan Am airliner over Scotland, killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground.

Johnson commercial attacked

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Ben Johnson will not appear in a Swedish fruit juice commercial until late April, but it has already been criticised by athletes, including a four-time Olympic champion. Johnson, who was stripped of his 100-metre gold medal in the Seoul summer Olympic games after testing positive for steroids, was reportedly paid \$30,000 by the Swedish brewery and soft drink producer Falcon for a 30-second spot commercial for Mer ("More") to be shown at movie theatres throughout Sweden. Tomas Gustafson of Sweden, a double Olympic speed skating champion in Sarajevo in 1984 and Calgary last year and a critic against drugs in sports, said he was upset after watching part of the commercial on video tape.

Australia violence rises

CANBERRA (R) — Australia has become a far more violent society in the past 15 years, making some parts of its largest cities "no-go" zones, according to a report released Sunday. Serious assault has risen four-fold, reported rapes by 150 per cent and robbery has doubled since 1974, according to a statistical study by a national committee on violence. But the murder rate has remained static and property crimes outnumber violent offences 40 to one. The growth in robberies, rapes and serious assaults have made some parts of Australia's largest cities "no-go" zones, according to committee Chairman Professor Duncan Chappell.